

Chichester & District Archaeology Society

www.cdas.info



Autumn Newsletter 2011

The Chairman's Column

David Rudkin -----



Whatever happened to the summer?

As, traditionally, we hold no lecture meetings during the summer, I often wonder if members assume that everything in the Society closes down until the autumn. I can assure everyone that such is not the case and that people are still busily working on existing or new projects.

As I write these few lines the two week excavations at Watergate Hanger Roman Villa are about to get under way, under the able leadership of James Kenny and Dave Butcher. This holds out exciting prospects, but for a time it looked as if it wouldn't happen, owing to the sad death, in early May, of the site owner and long term SAS member, Tony Segrave. I am delighted that we made him an Honorary Life member whilst he could still appreciate it, and saddened that we had not done likewise for the person most responsible for the founding of CDAS, John Magilton, who was untimely taken from us in early April.

I'm pleased to report that the Medmerry Project is still moving forwards after protracted negotiations with the various bodies involved, thanks to the tireless efforts of Ann Davies. Survey work has now been carried out in an area of potential archaeological interest with both our magnetometer and also the recently purchased Geoscan RM15-D resistivity meter. The latter was largely

funded through the Chichester District Council Coastal Change Pathfinder Project, with the difference provided by a generous grant from Chichester City Council, presented at a ceremony on 6th September. We are very grateful to the City Council for the support they have given us over the years.



The Chairman with the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor Tony French, at the grant awards ceremony.

Something that does happen during the summer is one of James Kenny's guided archaeological walks, this time on the downs above Bignor on 3rd July. If you missed that then look out for the next one on 2nd October, which will be a six mile route to the north of Arundel. Unfortunately it was decided that the proposed visit to the Mary Rose this year would be better postponed until a later date. However, the visit that Peter Harding organised to Winchester on 10th September was excellent. The excavation of the St Mary Magdalen's leper hospital was far more extensive

than I had anticipated, and far more long lived, from Late Saxon to post-Medieval, not to mention a possible Neolithic pit!

The afternoon visit to the Medieval Hospital of St Cross supplied not only some fascinating architecture and the Wayfarer's Dole, but a highly entertaining and informative talk by the inimitable Brother John (left).



Attendance at our lectures

continues to hold up well and Yvonne Munro has produced a very enticing and varied programme. However I have to warn everyone that parking is likely to become even more difficult when work starts on the redevelopment in the near future.

Pauline Norris has put together a varied set of training courses to keep us all up to speed. The details are on page 6. I hope you have all booked yourselves in for what you want; there are still a few places left on some courses.

If anyone has still not paid their subscription but intends to do so, may I please ask you to let Anne Joy have it as soon as possible? Unfortunately the option to pay by standing order was not widely taken up. It's worth considering next time.

I have to admit that falling membership does concern me and the Committee are looking at this. Perhaps we can have more of your suggestions at the **AGM**, which I hope you will all attend. Please note, however, that the date has been changed to **Wednesday 7th December**, although the venue remains the Assembly Room in North Street, Chichester. I would also like to hear from any members interested in coming onto the Committee. Phone or e-mail me for details of what is involved.

Finally, don't forget to check the CDAS website, which Ian Judd still most efficiently maintains for us, for any new information! 🐉

Our 20th anniversary -----

At the members' evening in May our President, Keith Lawson, described the



genesis and history of the Society. (His talk can be viewed on our website.) Anne Bone then ran through the visits and fieldwork we undertook, with many illustrations, and David Rudkin took a bold look at how the Society is

likely to develop in coming years.

Members then retired to mingle in the bar and to taste our celebratory cake with the CDAS logo in icing sugar on the top. 🐉

Fieldwork Committee

Dave Butcher -----



Since the last newsletter the re-organised CDAS Fieldwork Committee (FWC) has been focussed on planning future fieldwork, including the recent activities described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Dorothy Lawson has been a valued member of the FWC for a number of years, and has been responsible for the management of our archive. Dorothy has, however, decided that it is time to stand down from the committee and we will therefore be seeking a replacement. If anyone is interested in joining the FWC to take on this role, including looking at how we can make information more widely available to members through on-line access, then please contact one of the FWC members (Trevor Davies, Ann Davies, Caroline Scott, Juliet Smith or myself). As well as managing the archive this role provides an opportunity to become involved in the planning of future CDAS fieldwork, new ideas are always welcome!

As this newsletter goes to press we are running two week-long excavation training sessions at the Watergate Roman Villa site near West Marden, with the training being given by James Kenny. Following the sad news of the death of the landowner, Tony Segrave, and the impending sale of the property, this is likely to be the last opportunity for CDAS to carry out any work at the villa site. A report on the outcome of the excavation will be included in the next newsletter, also look out for photos from the dig appearing on the website.

Looking ahead to next year, the FWC will be assessing the results of our current fieldwork activities with the aim of identifying a suitable opportunity to conduct an excavation in 2012 that will be open to all members. Further information will be provided as it becomes available. ☺

Surveying

Trevor Davies -----



Resistivity Meter

CDAS has been very fortunate that they have been able to purchase a RM 15D Resistivity Meter from Geoscan Research. It was delivered at the end of June and funded with grants from The Chichester District Council Coastal Change Pathfinder Project, and Chichester City Council. Resistivity measures small changes in the resistance of the soil



between two fixed points. The technique identifies ground that has been disturbed (darker patches on the results), and those that are wetter (lighter patches on the survey). It is particularly

useful in identifying ditches, field boundaries and stone walls. The picture shows Jack Hopkins using the new Resistivity Meter on the recent survey at Medmerry, with Dave Butcher acting as "bridesmaid".

CDAS Capability

CDAS now has the resistivity meter, an electronic theodolite which is used to accurately survey in the locations of field work and lay out grid squares, and a magnetometer which allows small changes in the magnetic field to be measured – very useful for finding hearths, and brick structures. CDAS therefore now has the equipment to carry out comprehensive physical and geophysical surveys. Because surveying is non-invasive and non-destructive, it is much easier to get permission to do a survey than to do a dig. As the Society found at Warblington, good survey data support the arguments for undertaking a dig.

I believe that our objective must be to have a dozen individuals who thoroughly understand the techniques of using at least one piece of equipment. This includes setting the equipment up, doing the survey and where necessary downloading and processing the data. With this resource, the society will be able to respond to requests for survey work without overstretching any one individual.

Medmerry Survey

Starting at the beginning of September, 17 CDAS members worked for 49 man days to produce resistivity and magnetometry surveys of almost 2 hectares around a borehole where some un-abraded Roman pottery has been found.

The magnetometer plot shows sharp responses run to the northwest and southwest of the borehole. We do not believe that these are ancient, but there is the possibility that they might be either power cables or related to a WWII event. Down the eastern side of the resistivity

plot, the clear marks of cultivation can be seen. This confirms that the survey was picking up all that there was to pick up. More interesting are the linear features in the south western corner. These could be land drains, or something more significant, archaeologically. Research continues!

Future Surveys

The society plans to do a further survey at Medmerry during the third week in September, and to revisit Warblington in late October. ☺

Medmerry & Warblington

Ann Davies -----

CDAS has taken delivery of the Resistivity meter. The Coastal Change Grants Fund made a generous grant that covered the majority of the cost and recently Chichester City Council has generously covered the shortfall. The Environment Agency has appointed an archaeology company, Nexus Heritage, to manage all aspects of archaeology at **Medmerry**. Their remit covers the work being undertaken by Archaeology South East (ASE) as well as CDAS. ASE will be responsible for all work that is covered by the planning requirements. However, Nexus, ASE and James Kenny are keen that CDAS should have the opportunity to undertake projects outside this scope. As well as short term initiatives it is hoped to identify a portfolio of projects for the longer term. From 1st September Medmerry is under the management of the construction company. Nexus will negotiate CDAS's access and agree working methods. One obvious change is that we are now required to wear yellow jackets (non-magnetic of course).

The Medmerry area is basically arable so fieldwork is only possible when fields are free of crops. As a result we have had to wait until September when two surveys are scheduled (page 3 above). A number of other possibilities for fieldwork have been identified but discussions are at an early stage.

After the successful excavation at **Warblington** last autumn the plan is to undertake projects that should enable the villa to be put into its context. In particular, we are keen to establish whether there might be other buildings or features in the vicinity. Access has to fit in around the farming schedule but geophys is planned for October. The main objective is to survey with the resistivity meter those areas of the villa field not yet covered. These results can then be compared with those from the complete magnetometry survey carried out in March 2009. If the planting schedule permits it is proposed to survey borders along the edges of the two fields that are adjacent to the villa field. The farmer is very keen that CDAS should continue its investigations and was happy that it was seen as a long term project. ☺

Fieldwalking

Juliet Smith -----

Hi everyone, as the new Field Walking Team Leader, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to those members who may not know me. I am a qualified archaeologist with many years experience of fieldwalking as well as digging and other aspects of archaeology. Anyone who knows me will already know that archaeology is my passion in life!

I took over the role of fieldwalking team leader from Mike Dunn at the end of the last season. I have two assistant team leaders, Alan Buckle and Trudi Duthie - who has recently begun a new full time job and is unable to attend weekday walks so I am looking for a third. Please contact me on the email address below if you are interested in joining the team.

I would like to update the list of fieldwalkers and propose to make a completely new list in order that only interested members receive the emails and that all contact details are current. Please can you email me at starmesmith@aol.com or write to:

Juliet Smith, 19 Eight Acres, Beaconhill, Hindhead GU26 6RY if you would like to be contacted and take part in fieldwalking, with your name and contact details including telephone number, email address and home address - these details are obviously confidential and will not be used for any other purposes. I intend to use email addresses only as far as possible. I will send out an email to everyone who has registered in mid October.

Fieldwalking usually takes place in the Autumn, Winter and Spring and is dependent on farmers' ploughing and planting times, often at short notice of actual dates and with a small window of time. We literally do what the name suggests, walk across fields and look for artefacts while we are walking. You don't need to be super fit to join in but do need to be aware of how uneven ploughed fields can be! And facilities are basic! We have a great time and enjoy being out in the fresh air in the company of lovely friends while finding archaeology! It is a very sociable activity to take part in. Walks can be just 1 day or up to a week or more. On some occasions a quick walk over the field - when nothing is known about the location - will give us an idea of how much if any archaeology is there and together with the size of the area, an estimate of duration can be made.

In the case of our last fieldwalk, at Petworth, we were unable to complete the original field, due to its neighbouring livestock, so we moved elsewhere on the same farm. We didn't have time to complete the field but found enough artefacts to decide to return after ploughing and walk the whole field over a couple of days. I visited the field at the beginning of September. The crop has been removed and the field appeared to be ready for ploughing. To date I am still waiting to be given the go ahead and a date range to go back and fieldwalk - so please register your interest with the contact details above and watch this space! 🐾

Fieldwalk at Petworth

Mike Dunn -----



Members enjoyed an interesting field walk at Petworth back in the spring. This was on the Leconfield Estate, by kind permission of Lord Egremont, and followed much personal collecting hereabouts by CDAS member Bob Kowalski. Bob has built up a fascinating collection of flint finds, often made no more than a stroll away from his cottage! The area is rich in flints, and our walk targeted two fields: the first was recently ploughed and very suitable, but regrettably our new pole flags disturbed some stud horses nearby. We could walk only half the field and then start again elsewhere. The second field was sandy and had already been planted with a growing crop, so this was a "last chance" rescue walk for the season. Poor weather followed by crop spraying the week after curtailed activities here but a large half-field was covered.

The first field generated relatively few finds, but these included some Mesolithic flint. Most interest was in a damaged coin, later identified as a silver groat, probably of Queen Mary I (1553-54), minted in London. The second field produced a wide range of flints, mainly Mesolithic, with a considerable quantity of debitage, some cores, but very few finished tools (e.g. scraper) and microburins. This is fairly typical. The quality of finds recovered was not high, although it seemed possible that previous collecting here may have included some of the better pieces.

This field did however show a number of flint "hot spots", and clearly there has been activity here on some scale. This will certainly merit a more formal CDAS walk after the next ploughing. The site has much potential, and the outcome of a full field walk can be combined with current finds and Bob's own records to build up a fuller picture of distributions as a basis for further work, maybe excavation. 🐾

**CDAS Course Programme
2011-2012**

Pauline Norris -----



**22 October Identification of
Human Bone £22 NEW**

Course tutor is **Garrard Cole** of University College London. The course will look at identifying human bones in archaeology and what we can learn from them.

Short waiting list

**5 November Identification and
interpretation of Animal Bone £22
NEW**

Course tutor is **Rob Symmons**, Curator of Archaeology at Fishbourne Roman Palace. The course will look at the essentials of identification, ageing, sexing and butchery etc. and how to interpret your bones once you have worked on them.

2 places

**19 November Geology of building
stone in the Chichester area £22**

The course, run by **David Bone**, will look at identification and origin of the rocks used in buildings in this region of Sussex and what we can learn from their use. As Sussex has little indigenous material suitable for building this makes our part of the world particularly interesting. There is no doubt that after attending this course you will look at our churches and houses in a new light!

1 place

2012

**10 March Roman Mosaics
£15 NEW**

Course tutor is CDAS Chairman David Rudkin. He will be joined by Suzanne Evans who will be steering delegates through a practical session on mosaics. The course will look at the history, design and manufacture of Roman mosaics and includes a practical session where attendees will have a hands on experience, and probably also a period around the Roman Palace mosaics. The

course fee includes all the materials for the practical session.

Both lecturers have kindly waived their fee to the Society.

Long waiting list

**19 May Geophysics Behind
the Scenes £10 NEW**

Course tutors are Peter Page and Neville Haskins. The day will include: Preparation for a Geophysical Survey; Disciplines in conducting geophysics; Principles of configuring and tuning equipment & correct data collection; Practical (small explanatory survey outside at Fishbourne); Data download to PC and data management; Data processing strategies on the PC; Interpretation hints and Reporting and publishing.

Both lecturers have kindly waived their fee to the Society

1 place

Fees are due 6 weeks before the date of the course at the latest. After that date fees will have to be charged in full unless there is a waiting list for courses.

Contact me, Pauline Norris, at paulinen@cdas.info, or at the lecture meeting or write to me at Rivendell, Earnley Manor Close, Earnley PO20 7JQ to book a place/s on a course/s. ☺

Membership report

Anne Joy -----



At present the Society has 168 members split down to 4 honorary members, 44 joint and 120 single members. Some people have said they are renewing but to date have not. This could boost our numbers by about 30.

The discount for early payment ie up to 31 May, has not worked well, with quite a few people sending the discounted rate (£15) up to September. If you are not sure how much to pay please contact me on 023 9248 0902. If you want to pay by standing order next April please contact me for a form (early March would be an ideal time). ☺

May I remind members that the membership year is from 1 April until 31 March. The discounted membership rate is only applicable up until 31 May and then it reverts to the full price. Everyone who is a paid up member should now have a membership number on their card.

New Members since Spring Newsletter

A warm welcome to our new members: Julie Pulley, Roger Brickell, John Hughes, Dickie Spurgin, Joy Griffin, Owen Morgan, Wendy McLellan, Paul Albrecht and Beryl Bartlett, Helen and Robert Kalnicky, Peter Murphy, Amanda Hicks, and Derek Bilston. 🐾

James Kenny's Walk

Christine Bury -----



As the cognoscenti know, a James Kenny CDAS walk is characterised by heavy rain, driving winds, wet weather gear, good pubs and excellent archaeology. Only the latter was evident, however, on James's Bignor Hill walk on 3rd July. That Sunday was a beautiful, hot summer's day. Start time was 10.30 am. No problem, or so Michael and I thought. We had our walking boots and maps, we had the NGR reference for the car park and we had a picnic (no pubs up on the top of the Downs!)



HOWEVER, it was the third day of the Goodwood Festival of Speed and we knew that the event would be heavily

patronised so we elected to travel by car from Emsworth to Bignor along the back roads. It was a lovely scenic journey but it took us longer than expected. Having never been to the National Trust car park on the top of Bignor Hill, we stopped in Bignor village where they were having a Weed festival

and asked for directions. Right, then left; we found the hill and started up a long, narrow, steep, grass-laden track, praying that another car would not be coming the other way. Triumphantly, we parked at the top on the dot of 10.30 am. James, the county archaeologist, and some CDAS members were already there.

The view was stupendous, skylarks were singing, other walking groups were assembling but it became clear to all that a lot of people were missing. Traffic going to Goodwood was causing walkers long delays.

BUT, we had come to walk and approximately half an hour later than scheduled, James set off with about half a dozen of us on a circular 5 mile walk around the Downs. Along the way he pointed out geological features, ancient woodlands, Bronze-age barrows and a Roman road. From the top of Bignor Hill we viewed an eye-catching Greensand escarpment and saw Highdown Iron-age hill fort in the distance. We looked at ancient woodlands from another perspective when James told us of the interesting archaeology that he hopes to find from an aerial Lidar survey. Tumuli seemed everywhere when pointed out by a trained eye. We picnicked in a field of wildflowers which also contained a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. It was a fascinating archaeological stroll with a very knowledgeable guide that culminated with walking along part of Stane Street. Thank you James for showing Michael and me a new and soon to be re-explored area. 🐾

Medieval Hospital Visit

Peter Harding -----



The idea for this visit was to have a good day out and, first, see a medieval hospital site, where only foundations remain, being excavated by the University of Winchester's Archaeology Department, to find out how the 'Dig' was being carried out and what it was all

about. Then, to visit the medieval founded Hospital of St Cross in Winchester, where the buildings, including Almshouses, still remain in use and could provide an idea of what the dig site might have looked like.

Although the weather forecast for the day was not inspiring, the couple of dozen members who came were lucky, with any showers only when cover was available. The arrangement was to meet at the University of Winchester for transport to the 'Dig' on the remaining foundations of St Mary Magdalen's hospital located off the Alresford Road on the outskirts of Winchester. Having left home early enough to greet everyone as they arrived, as I thought, I managed to be amongst the last to arrive, but that's another story!

We were met at the dig site by Dr Simon Roffey, one of the Principal



Investigators, who provided a very informative talk on the background to the site; its development and changes over some 700-800 years and its demolition at the end of the 18th century, as well as the excavation details. Two of his colleagues then guided us around the various parts of the dig site, pointing out the features uncovered and answering questions. There was also a display of finds and other background information provided, along with further input from students working on the dig.

On the history, the St Mary Magdalen site was first documented as a leper hospital in the mid 12th century, although the excavations have revealed earlier Saxon building, and seems to have lasted in this use into the 14th century,

with further rebuilding and reforming. By the late 16th century much of the masonry hospital was demolished to



make way for brick built almshouses, but leaving the medieval chapel. During the Civil War the buildings were used as a troop base and are recorded as being much damaged, but recompense to rebuild was not forthcoming! Some further building works were carried out to house Dutch prisoners during and following the wars of 1660/70, but the buildings were ruinous by the 1780's and demolished by order of the then Bishop of Winchester. Fortunately, there exist late 18th century drawings showing the former chapel, almshouse range, Master's lodge, gatehouse and various other buildings. These have helped with identifying and locating the building remains over this extensive site. Although the site was later used as one of Hampshire's largest First World War Bases, nothing today can be seen above ground. This research excavation project is considered important as little is known about these foundations or the details of leper hospitals from these early years. (See http://www.winchester.ac.uk/academic_departments/archaeology/research/mharp/Pages/MHARP.aspx for more details).

Following a very pleasant and social lunch time at the pub next door to our second venue, we met up with our guide to the Hospital of St Cross & Almshouse of Noble Poverty. He turned out to be an imposing, tall gentleman in claret

trencher hat and robes, one of the Red Brothers of the Order of Noble Poverty founded in 1445. (There are also the Black Brothers, who were founded with the hospital around 1132.) He provided a fascinating, if at times a surprisingly irreverent, non-stop tour of the precinct, gardens, church (a Royal Peculiar) and old kitchens. The imposing Almshouses (which the Brothers live in and, we were several times informed, have vacancies



Photo – Sue Jordan

at present!) date from the 1500's and have distinctive chimneys, which are of a similar size to the ones that would have stood at the St Mary Magdalen site, along with the Master's lodgings still existing at St Cross. The church was started as a Norman construction around 1135, although there is evidence of a Saxon chapel incorporated into it, and building continued over the following 200 years. It has many interesting features and woodcarvings.

The tour was followed by the chance to enjoy the Wayfarer's Dole – a horn of beer and a morsel of bread – provided free to travellers since medieval times. A welcome cup of tea and home made cake were also available from the tea room in the Hundred Mens Hall (where up to a 100 men were given food each day in medieval times). (See also <http://www.stcrosshospital.co.uk/> for further details.)

I think it was a very enjoyable and informative day and probably most of us went home and slept well that night! I will certainly be looking to visit the St Cross Hospital again and looking up the next report update on the St Mary Magdalen dig site. ☘

Coming events -----

September 28 – lecture by **Dr Andy Russel**, University of Southampton
Claesentum – what was going on in Roman Southampton?

October 26 – lecture by **Andy Howard** and **James Kenny**
The City Walls Project

November 23 - lecture by **Martin Brown**, Defence Estates
Archaeology on the Defence Estate

December 7 – **Annual General Meeting and Social Evening** (members only)
The Assembly Rooms, North Street,
7.30pm **(Please note change of date)**

Watergate villa 2011, week one ---



*James Kenny makes his dispositions.....
And work starts in earnest.*



'Pictures from an excavation' will be displayed on our website. (Shame we have no-one to set them to music!)