

Chichester & District Archaeology Society

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Spring Newsletter 2010

Under New Management

The Society is fortunate that David Rudkin, the former Director of Fishbourne Roman Palace, has agreed to become the new Chairman. Trevor Davies, Chairman for the last four years, brought enthusiasm and new ideas to the job and oversaw and encouraged a significant expansion of our activities. A hard act to follow. But David, who will already be known to most of our members, brings an enviable reputation, a wealth of archaeological knowledge and an unrivalled contacts book with him.

Chairman's report



As I have only recently become Chairman of the Society, our perceptive Newsletter Editor realised that I wouldn't have a lot to report and suggested that I should provide you with a short autobiography instead. So, on this occasion, I will leave the writing of the notes to the leaders of the different activities, who are better informed. Instead, I will briefly relate my history and involvement in archaeology.

Archaeology isn't a word that was in common use in rural Leicestershire, where I was born, the son of a gardener, in the spring of 1943. In fact I probably didn't even encounter the word until the mid 1950s, when I had an inspirational history teacher and also became enthralled by 'Animal, Vegetable, Mineral' on television. However, this didn't stop me from giving up history in favour of physics and, on leaving school after O-levels, becoming an apprentice draughtsman in a heavy engineering company in Grantham, Lincs. Ironically, during my latter years there I was working on design of earth-moving equipment, not realising that moving earth would become so important to me, albeit on a much smaller scale!

It was in Grantham that I and a few like-minded people decided to set up a local archaeological society and it all blossomed from there. We not only undertook fieldwork locally but joined excavations further afield. It was at this time that I first directed my own rescue excavation, of a monastic grange, in advance of ironstone quarrying. It was also about this time that I was attending a WEA course on Roman Lincolnshire, given by Ben Whitwell, the then Curator of Lincoln City and County Museum. He encouraged me to go to university to read archaeology, then take it up as a career, which I did. I read Archaeology and Prehistory at the University of Sheffield, where I was inspired by Colin, now Lord, Renfrew, and dug with him on a Neolithic/Bronze Age tell in Northern Greece in 1969.

As I was married by this time and needed to earn some money, I decided that I would pursue my archaeological career in a museum environment, so took the Post-graduate Certificate in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. With this behind me I applied for, and was appointed to, the post of Keeper of Archaeology for Portsmouth City Museums. As well as curation and redisplay of the collections there was also a responsibility for rescue excavation within the city. I was also fortunate to become involved with a very professional group of amateur diggers, the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group to whom I later became Archaeological Adviser. Being Hon. Secretary of the Hampshire Archaeological Committee also kept me in touch with what was happening right across the county.

I was appointed as Director of Fishbourne Roman Palace in the summer of 1979 and almost immediately was involved in the lifting of the Cupid on a Dolphin mosaic, for conservation. In those days the accepted method of conservation involved the lifting of the mosaic in sections, removing a space beneath to insert a reinforced concrete bed, and then relaying the mosaic. In this case it was also an opportunity to look for the primary floor which had once existed beneath. I will never forget the moment when a perfect piece of black and white geometric mosaic was exposed and realised that we were the first people to see it since the

mid-second century. Sadly only about twenty percent of the mosaic survived, but as it was geometric, I was able to produce a reconstruction drawing of its original design, which appears to be unique. This, of course, is the Fortress mosaic. We have lifted and re-laid three other mosaics since then, but none with quite such striking results.

When I went to Fishbourne I had aspirations to improve the understanding of the site, either personally or by encouraging others to re-examine the existing evidence. One method was clearly excavation and this was initially opportunistic. When a Roman wall

was discovered on the western side of the Fishbourne Channel in 1982, I instigated a two season campaign to see if there were any links to the Palace. It transpired to be a late first century timber building which burnt down and was replaced by very large aisled masonry building in the mid-second century AD. Links with the Palace were tenuous, but it is probable that an enormous cache of used black and white tesserae that we discovered came from there.

Opportunism prevailed again in 1987 when a house located over the southern end of the west wing of the Palace came on to the market. It was purchased by the Sussex Archaeological Society and we excavated the back and front gardens over two seasons. This gave more information on not only the layout of the Flavian west wing but also the enigmatic building that lay beneath it, a building that deserves further investigation to the west.

In 1989 an article appeared in the journal 'Britannia' suggesting that the Roman Invasion of AD 43 took place, not through Richborough in Kent, but more probably through the large harbours behind the Isle of Wight, of which Chichester Harbour is one. This made a big impact on me. Was Fishbourne part of the original bridgehead? In effect we knew relatively little about the initial military presence and dating was problematical. Could we find out more, both about the initial Roman activity on the site and the Late Iron Age that had preceded it? What did the scatter of pre-conquest pottery from Barry Cunliffe's 1960s excavation imply? There seemed only one way to find out and that was by further excavation and the place had to be immediately to the east of the Palace where Alec Down had found traces of early activity in 1983 and 1985-6. Fortunately the Sussex Archaeological Society were enthusiastic about the idea and their CEO, John Manley, and I directed excavations there from 1995-9 and a final season in 2002. The results were spectacular but often difficult to interpret. The large courtyard building, building 3, for example, is still of unknown function. However the most important discovery was the Late Iron Age ditch with its remarkable contents of local pottery and pre-conquest imports, that pottery specialists salivate over. The fragment of decorated military sword scabbard may suggest a military presence well before AD 43. The faunal remains from the site enabled bone specialist Naomi Sykes to undertake scientific analysis and postulate that Fallow deer were almost certainly kept at the Palace a thousand years before they were believed to have been introduced to Britain. Further excavation in that area in future could doubtless add considerably to the Fishbourne story.

But archaeology isn't all about excavation. It is also about communicating the information at all levels, from the academic paper at one level to enthusing a school child at another. I always put a high priority on the education provision at Fishbourne and was proud to see how it developed over the years, and even more proud when the University of Chichester recognised my services to education at the Palace with the award of an Honorary MA in 2006.

In part, the major HLF-aided restoration and development project that I oversaw at Fishbourne

was also about communicating the archaeology better to the visitors through improved interpretation and access to the collections as well as making the remains and collections safer for future generations.

After the best part of half a century I still retain my enthusiasm for archaeology, and hope that I can continue to inspire and encourage others, just as others encouraged me. Otherwise I might still be standing behind my engineer's drawing board. □

Four other members have also joined the committee:

Anne Joy – *Membership Secretary*

"I have always been interested in history and always a keen viewer of Time Team and other archaeological programmes. About 2002 my daughter suggested we go to evening classes and do an introduction to Archaeology. We had a great time at Havant College with a tutor passionate about her subject. From there I did a course at Southdowns



College, I wanted to see if another course would give a different point of view. This time my tutor was David Rudkin and he, as you know, is just as passionate about archaeology.

"In 2004 I joined the newly formed Portsmouth Archaeological Society but it did not work out and after about a year that folded. In 2005 I answered an advert in the News asking for volunteers to dig at South Harting and that is where I met the members and heard about CDAS. Of course Sam and I joined the Society. I have taken part in documentary research, field walking, excavating, courses and am part of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy condition survey team. I feel honoured to have been asked to be the membership secretary and will do my utmost to make a good job of it."

Peter Harding – "A retired chartered surveyor, having spent most of my career managing the government's property and estates, including English Heritage, within much of the south east of England. Involvement over the years with such places as Richborough, Dover, Porchester and Carisbrooke castles, plus the Osborne Estate, will remain



memorable. Prior to early retirement 4 years ago I signed up to 'An Introduction to Archaeology' course at Havant College and caught the enthusiasm of the lecturer, Jan Bristow. Then volunteering for one of George Anelay's digs at Harting led on to a Selhurst Park dig and an introduction to CDAS activities and membership. Further digs at Selhurst Park, Dell Quay, Bishop's Palace, West Marden, including training and post excavation work at Fishbourne, Dell Quay and Fort Cumberland have further stimulated my interest. As a new committee member, although still learning the ropes, I hope to be able to add something back to encourage and benefit others."

Dave Butcher – Treasurer

“My involvement in archaeology started in 2005 when I enrolled on an evening class at Havant College. There I met some members of CDAS and joined in 2006. I went on my first excavation at Liss in September 2006 and have subsequently dug on a number of sites in Hampshire, Sussex and one in Northamptonshire. In October 2007 I started a course at the University of Sussex which led to the completion of a Certificate in Practical Archaeology in 2008, and I am now working towards completion of a MA in Field Archaeology in September 2010. This has included directing my own excavation which took place at Eartham in June 2009 (see article in Past Matters). At CDAS I have been involved in several fieldwalks, I am part of the team that surveys sites around Chichester Harbour, and I have audited the accounts for the last two years. I see my appointment as Treasurer as an opportunity for me to get more involved in the running of the society, as well as filling a post which is often not one that has people queueing up to volunteer!”



Shonagh Methven – “My interest in archaeology stems from a windswept trip to Housesteads and Vindolanda on Hadrian’s Wall with my O Level Latin class in the 1970s. Roman archaeology has always been my passion and was one of the reasons I chose to live in this part of Sussex. My other passion is making health and safety systems work for people. I’m a health and safety risk assessor by trade and hope I can contribute to safe systems which enable CDAS to undertake all of the activities we want to while maintaining a safe environment for everyone.”



No change at New Park -- for now

– Robert Kaltenborn

At the New Park AGM in December it was announced that there continues to be no fixed outlook for when work will commence on the re-building of the site. The continuing delay is caused by funding problems which the Committee are addressing in a number of ways. The best outlook that anyone could give was that it will be at least a year before any work commences. That means that CDAS will continue to use the main auditorium for our monthly meetings and be able to park some of our cars in the New Park car park!

While the proposed new facilities look great on paper, the current auditorium is fine for us and we really like having the car park which will be lost when the re-construction actually begins.

Visits Programme – Samantha Joy

In the past we have had a good response to local trips and have decided this year to try and arrange some more local visits. Further distances involves

coaches which requires more people, increases the cost and makes it a long day sitting mainly on a coach. There are no definite details yet but I am trying to organise the following:

Trip to the Roman Glassworks and The Museum of the Iron Age at Andover.

Visit to Little Woodham, the 17th century village in Gosport.

I am also organising a *Summer Social*, hopefully to be in the form of a Barbeque. This will be in June/July and will be a ticketed event. The organising of the above is in the early stages but please keep an eye on the website for full details. If you think you may be interested please email sam@cdas.info or call 02392 429758 and leave a message to register your interest.

The Lecture programme – Keith Robinson

A reminder that the talk on 28 April will be given by **Martin Hatton** on ‘*Human Remains at Sedgford*’. At the Members’ Evening on 26 May our various sub-committees will report on their activities through the year.

The Autumn programme kicks off on 22 September with **Dr Nicholas Saunders** (left) of Bristol University discussing his joint project with Leicester and Yale Universities on the Nazca Lines in southern Peru.



Helpers needed – Caroline Scott

Caroline Scott is looking for one or two volunteers to help with the fieldwork equipment store at Fishbourne Roman Palace. This involves checking the inventory occasionally and taking equipment to fieldwork sites. Volunteers should be able to lift moderately heavy items such as toolboxes and have a car which can take a wheelbarrow (Caroline’s Fiat Punto copes, so the vehicle need not be large). For further information or to volunteer please call Caroline on 01243 785529.

And a reminder that CDAS still needs a few more volunteers to open the bar after meetings. Contact Dorothy Lawson on 01243 371481 or dandklawson@hotmail.com.

Membership renewal

The committee agreed at the AGM in December to hold membership fees unchanged for 2010/11. Subscriptions are due in April and may be paid by cheque or at the lecture evenings. A renewal form is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Newsletter distribution

As part of our cost-cutting exercise we plan to distribute newsletters by e-mail in future. Members will receive the March and September newsletters much earlier and we should save up to £70 a year on printing and postage. Printed copies will, of course, be distributed to members without e-mail addresses. If any e-mail users would prefer to continue to receive printed copies, please inform the editor on guyl@cdas.info.

Educational courses

Last May's 'Members' Evening' gave five members an opportunity to tell us about their experiences on various courses. Anyone who missed the talk and is thinking of signing up in the near future may find their observations helpful. Some further information may be found in the **Learning Revolution White Paper** from the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills, at <http://www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution>.

Christine Bury – Archaeology course under Jan Bristow at Havant College of Adult Education (christine.bury@ntlworld.com)

The course runs throughout the year in weekly evening sessions for all age groups. Each of the three terms of 10 weeks included 8 classroom sessions and 2 fieldtrips. Having moved here relatively recently Christine found the course gave her an excellent overview of the early history of this area.

Yvonne Munro – BA in Archaeology & Landscape, University of Sussex (yvmunro@talktalk.net)

Yvonne completed the 4th year of the 6-year part-time degree course, having transferred her credits from a certificate in Practical Archaeology. The course was made up of a combination of compulsory and optional modules, focussing mostly on the archaeology and landscape of Sussex and included a good number of relevant field trips and practical sessions.

Trevor Davies – BA in Archaeology, University of Reading (trevor.davies28@btinternet.com)

Trevor had no great historical or archaeological background knowledge and wished to get a good overview of this subject. He chose Reading because of its accessibility from Emsworth and because he was impressed by Mike Fulford's work at Silchester. He has completed 3 years at 2 days a week.

Alison McQuaid – MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology, Oxford University (amcquaid@chichester.gov.uk)

Alison had already completed an MA before finishing this course in 2008 after 2 years part-time study. The course has 3 terms a year each of 3 compulsory modules, with an additional field-based module in year 2. It required a great deal of written work and independent research, and was expensive – apart from the course fees there is an annual fee to be a member of Oxford University. No free accommodation is

provided and there is some 'bizarre' paperwork and a need to attend a number of formal dinners and to wear gowns. As the course took 6 students from all over the UK there was little time for social interaction or mutual support. Despite the pressure she enjoyed it and is glad to have continuing access to the university's resources.

Dawn Cansfield – MA in Field Archaeology, University of Sussex

(dawn.cansfield@hotmail.co.uk)

Wanting to continue her studies after a part-time 5-year BSc in Archaeology & Landscape Studies at Surrey University over a further five years, Dawn signed up for the 2-year MA course at Sussex, attending on 4 Fridays and 2 Saturdays over two terms a year, which enabled her to fit it in with her family and work commitments. The course structure covered all aspects of field archaeology with excellent lecturers. She found the course "very practical and stretching" and now feels able to go on to a DPhil. Unfortunately both the Surrey and Sussex courses are no longer available due to changes in priorities by the universities concerned. □

Dayle Kaltenborn

In loving memory of Dayle Kaltenborn, who passed away on 3 February, her husband, Robert, Secretary of CDAS, has kindly offered to share the recipe for the chocolate chip cookies that she frequently delivered to various archaeological endeavours and which were so enthusiastically received.

Original Toll House Cookies aka Chocolate Chip Cookies

All in British measures:-
50 g unsifted flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
250 g butter, softened
250 g granulated sugar
130 g moist brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs
3 x 75g packs of chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 190C. In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; set aside. In large bowl, combine butter, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract; beat until creamy. Beat in eggs. Gradually add flour mixture; mix well. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cooking sheets. Bake at 190C for 8 - 10 minutes. Makes 100 - 2" (5 cm) cookies. **Enjoy!** □

Fishbourne Roman Palace

Congratulations to Palace staff on receiving the prestigious Sandford Award for Heritage Education, which is given only to organisations which have reached a high standard in the way that they ☞

teach a wide spectrum of visitors, from primary school youngsters to university and beyond. The Head of Learning, Suzanne Evans, and Betina Blake the Marketing and Administration Coordinator received the award presented by HRH Prince Edward at Windsor Castle on 15th February.

The Ermine Street Guard return to Fishbourne on the weekend of 1st and 2nd May with displays of army weaponry and battle tactics. There will also be a variety of activities suitable for all the family.

The CDAS Archive – Dorothy Lawson

Two years ago it was decided to set up a CDAS Archive to maintain a record of what has been done by the Society. In the past this has depended on information being passed on by retiring committee members or fieldwork project leaders, with the danger of loss or misunderstanding, and of the same ground being covered again. The Archive contains quite a surprising amount of information - committee papers, newsletters, details of past visits and speakers, and

fieldwork records (this being the largest section), together with old maps and site drawings. It is kept in the old store at Fishbourne Roman Palace, a rather damp, rat-infested building, but as everything is plastic-wrapped and kept in solid boxes the damp does not affect the records. Maps and drawings are kept in the Sensitive Store in the Discovery Centre at the Palace. There is also a small collection of books which are useful for reference purposes.

If you wish to access this information please contact either Caroline Scott (01243 785529) or Dorothy Lawson (01243 371481 or dandklawson@hotmail.com).

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to these members who have joined recently:

Neil Wolloff; Kathryn Creed; Clare Chatham; Jennifer Harvey; Jez Smith; Sue Burden; Christine Helyer; Gillian Smith; Lesley Thomas; Janice Kirkley; Robert P Young; Cliff and Jill Oakley; Jan Bristow

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CHICHESTER & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, APRIL 2010-MARCH 2011

Name(s) Mr/Mrs/Ms.....Surname.....

Address.....

.....Post code.....

Telephone no..... e-mail.....

I/We wish to renew my/our membership of the Society for 2010-2011.

I/We enclose cash/cheque for £..... (single £13, joint £25, fulltime student up to 23 £4.50)

Please make cheques payable to CDAS.

I/We are interested in taking part in the Society's practical archaeological activities: please tick:

Fieldwalking.....Excavations.....Recording.....Research.....Training sessions.....

**Please return this form with your payment to the Membership Secretary, CDAS:
Mrs Anne Joy, 105 Ramsdale Avenue, Leigh Park, Havant, Hants., PO9 4DY**

NB The Society maintains a record of your details and subscriptions paid solely to assist in the running of the Society. This information will not be passed on to any other organisation or to any individual who is not a member of the Society and will be deleted from the records within two years of your ceasing to be a member.

Chichester's Deanery bastion excavation



A number of CDAS members took part in the District Council's excavations of the so-called Deanery bastion and ditches of the Chichester city wall last October. James Kenny, the District Archaeology Officer, describes the

project in the latest issue of Past Matters. Our picture shows excavation of the mysterious square hole dug in the bastion in mediaeval times.

The Children's Dig

In preparation for the excavation's Open Day a group from Lewes opened a square trench between the two excavation sites for children to dig in. The children were surprised (and delighted) to find in the first two



feet of soil a wide range of artifacts from the prehistoric, through Roman and mediaeval pottery, bones and oyster shells, to clay pipes and Victorian chinaware and iron objects. Probably the most striking find was a miniature ornament of a hand holding a stringed instrument. □

