

# Chichester & District Archaeology Society

cdas.info



## Spring newsletter 2011 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition



The Chairman's Column  
David Rudkin

### Forward Into The New Season

When I wrote my piece in the Autumn Newsletter we still had the Warblington Villa excavation ahead of us. It seems like light years ago now, but those who were present will remember two weeks of enjoyable digging and some spectacular results. The new Theodolite allowed for some impressively positioned trenches, locating both the North West and South West corners, with a further trench mid-way along the western side. This allowed a glimpse of the curious line of rooms along that side of the building and the suggestion that they were a later addition. A further, uncompleted, trench to the East located two Roman ditches. The report of the first season's work is being written up by Jonathan Dicks, who directed the excavation, but his leaving the Society has made us question our plans for this site.

It has been decided that there will be no excavation there this season, although more geophysical survey is likely and possibly some fieldwalking. However, this pause will give the Fieldwork Committee time to reassess what our policy should be regarding the site and to revisit the Project Design.

The Fieldwork Committee, on which the Society very much relies, has had a difficult time recently with key members resigning for a variety of personal reasons, but they are a resilient group and have bounced back. Jonathan's place as Chairman has been taken over by Dave Butcher alongside his role as Treasurer. Other changes to the Fieldwork Committee are outlined in Dave's article below. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the resigning members for their valuable work in the past, the remaining committee members and those taking on new roles.

Juliet Smith will take over as Field Walk Leader ably assisted by Trudi Duthie as her Deputy. Other changes are in the pipeline and will be announced in due course, for example, it has been suggested that Finds Processing may be established as a separate activity and an Activity Leader and Deputy will be sought. My very sincere thanks to all the resigning members for their valuable work in the past.

As I write, the Fieldwalking group are preparing to fieldwalk two fields belonging to the Leconfield Estate near Petworth where I wish them better conditions than those prevailing on the fieldwalking at Medmerry, or Mudmerry, as it was aptly named. Conditions were so appalling that the walk had to be curtailed for health and safety reasons. Presumably the land there will dry up to allow further investigation, as the Documentary Research Group have been studying the aerial photographs in the County Records Office which have revealed a few anomalies that could merit following up on the ground.

Bad weather also shortened James Kenny's walk around the Trundle in October, but he has a very hardy following. I'm delighted to be able to report that James will be supervising this year's training excavations at Watergate Hanger Roman Villa, assisted by Dave Butcher, and more

### The Founder Members

*In 1992 the CDAS committee comprised Anne Bone, Janet Dummer, Su Fullwood,, James Kenny, Keith Lawson, David Rudkin, Wilf Shannon, Sallie Sloman, Sue Woodward and Brian Worsfold. Happily many of them are still with us. However the newsletter for Spring 1992 records that Mike Woodford, one of the original committee members, had died.*

information will be available in due course. James is a very appropriate person to lead this work as he directed the excavations there in the 1980s.

The other training courses have proved popular and have been very well attended. Pauline Norris is actively putting together the future programme based on the results of the membership survey. Likewise Yvonne is busily working on the 2011/12 lecture programme and I am especially looking forward to Martin Brown's talk on the 'Archaeology of the MoD Estates' in November. Peter Harding is finalising the visits programme which looks exciting. There will be plenty to keep everybody busy over the coming year! ■

## The 2011 committee

A leaflet showing the new committee and their responsibilities has been available at this year's lecture evenings. A copy can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Anne Joy.

The Society's officers are:

**Keith Lawson**, President  
**David Rudkin**, Chairman  
**Dave Butcher**, Treasurer  
**Bob Kaltenborn**, Secretary

Committee members:

**Peter Harding**, field trips  
**Yvonne Munro**, lecture programme  
**Anne Joy**, membership  
**Pauline Norris**, training  
**Guy Lockton**, newsletter, guidebook  
**Shonagh Methven**  
**Anne Scicluna**  
**David Fitter**

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## Fieldwalking News

Mike Dunn



Intensive search at Loxwood – photo Mike Dunn

Fieldwalkers enjoyed lovely weather and a beautiful environment for an autumn walk at the north of our area at Loxwood. A low hill surrounded by streams produced a good selection of Mesolithic flints, probably arising from a short stay hunting camp there. These included flakes, bladelets, numerous cores and a possible stone hammer. In due course, we hope to return to this site, where

we have enjoyed excellent co-operation from the farmer.

After that, and with potential walks waiting, we endured snow and the coldest December for 120 years, followed then by rain! Eventually a start was made in late January, moving from the extreme north of our area to the extreme south down at Medmerry. Here the Environment Agency has invited CDAS to undertake archaeological investigations on low-lying land that is due to be inundated when the sea wall is deliberately breached in 2012. After eventually gaining access to three large fields, the first proved a serious challenge. Deep sticky mud slowed progress, trapped the occasional unwary walker, and resulted in everyone (and their cars) becoming very muddy. Even with sunny weather, the walk had to be curtailed after 3 days, but at least with the satisfaction of more than 22 acres covered.



Firing days at Medmerry - Mike Dunn

Despite all this effort, the finds were very few and eclectic – a very small selection of flint flakes and cores, pottery sherds and Roman roof tile pieces, together with over 20 kg of fire cracked flint! Analysis will follow. We shall be persevering here, although matching field access with farming practices and decent weather will remain an on-going problem.

As this Newsletter goes to press, we are on a three day walk on fields near Petworth, by courtesy of the Leconfield Estate. Member Bob Kowalski has been monitoring these for some time, and we are walking two fields with the (almost!) certain expectation ■

of finding Mesolithic or later flints – and maybe much more of course! News of this later.



Seamus at Flint Frenzy - Mike Dunn

One other aspect of Field Walking group activities was the very successful Flint Frenzy at the Sidlesham Crystal Palace last autumn, and this is being repeated on May 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in knapping and flint identification, there may still be a place available, so contact Mike Dunn for details.

Finally, as reported elsewhere, with regret both Alan Stanley and I are standing down from organising CDAS field walking as from May. We have greatly enjoyed running the walks together over the last 2 years – Alan for much longer beforehand too. Our thanks to everyone for your support, especially Caroline, and Arthur and Di down at the Crystal Palace. With Juliet and Trudi taking over, the combined age of your Field Walking organisers falls by many decades, so everyone can look forward to many more energetic walks in the future! ■

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### Fieldwork Committee Changes

*Dave Butcher*

After several years leading the CDAS Fieldwork Committee (FWC) and developing projects such as Warblington, Jonathan Dicks has resigned from the society (see article below). I was asked to take over as chairman of the FWC and happily accepted the role.

Other members of the FWC have, or are about to, stand down due to ill health or other commitments; as a result we have been reviewing the organisation of the FWC

and how best to run activities in the future. The outcome of this is that we will organise the FWC into the following activities:

**Archive** (led by Dorothy Lawson), **Condition Assessment** (Trevor Davies), **Research** (Ann Davies), **Equipment** (Caroline Scott), **Excavation** (myself), **Fieldwalking** (Juliet Smith) and **Surveying** (Trevor Davies). James Kenny also sits on the FWC to represent Chichester District Council and provide technical advice.

All of these activities also have one or more deputies in addition to the leader. Juliet has kindly volunteered to take over the Fieldwalking from Mike Dunn and Alan Stanley from May, and Trudi Duthie will her deputy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike and Alan for their excellent running of the Fieldwalking projects over the past few years. Trevor will take over the Surveying activity (which will include Geophysics) from June. It is intended to expand the responsibilities of this team to include setting up sites for other activities (fieldwalking and excavation). We are always looking for new people to get involved in fieldwork so if you are interested in any of these activities then please contact the leader identified above.

In addition to the activities listed above we have decided to create a separate team for **Finds Processing** which will handle the finds from all of our other activities. This will also provide an activity in which those who are unable to take part in active fieldwork can participate. The responsibilities of this team have yet to be fully defined but it is hoped that this will provide an opportunity for people to become more involved in the process of finds handling and identification. If you are interested in becoming a member of this team, or even a leader or deputy, then please contact one of the FWC members. We are also considering the appointment of a 'Small Finds Advisor'.

The changes described above will enable CDAS to efficiently run our future fieldwork projects. As a result of this period of change, and to provide time to review our plans for the future, there will unfortunately not be an excavation at Warblington this year. We will instead focus on getting last year's excavation written up and undertaking further geophysics and research before considering our options for a 2012 dig. ■

## Jonathan Dicks

*Alan Stanley*

A familiar figure with distinctive headgear has been missing at recent events arranged by CDAS. Jonathan Dicks' decision to resign from the society is regretted, especially by those members who like to take part in active archaeology. As chairman of the Field Work Committee he was a driving force, feeling strongly that this amateur society should seek to undertake archaeology to professional standards.

He continues to improve his own knowledge by extensive university studies, backed by field archaeology at Silchester and hard work against the clock for contracting excavation teams. The Romano-British pottery of Rowlands Castle, previously dug but unrecorded, became a speciality, and he made strenuous efforts to locate the finds. Several co-students benefited from his willingness to share his knowledge.

Jonathan instigated a training programme so that members could learn from experts about finds recognition and the wide range of skills needed in excavation. These hands-on lectures led to several training digs, and culminated in him leading last year's successful excavations at Warblington Roman Villa. He has agreed to write a detailed report on that dig, which is eagerly awaited.

His continued successful links with other organisations with shared interests in archaeology bore fruit in generous grants from Chichester Harbour Conservancy for specialist equipment to survey and monitor the Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We owe another debt to Jonathan. His skill at delegation means that much of the work he started continues in safe hands. ■

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## Research

*Ann Davies*

**Warblington** – Reviews of aerial photos and maps completed as is research into post-Roman activity on the site and in the environs. As yet the location of a possible DMV has not been identified. Research into the Roman context is on-going.

**Medmerry** – Initial investigation has shown that much of the target area used to be marsh or under water. A review of aerial photos has identified a few marks that might possibly be features. In a parallel exercise John Wells, a society member, prepared a report on WWII remains.

On-going reviews of the **Dell Quay** and **Pagham** areas are underway. ■

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## Visits

*Peter Harding*

From the choice of potential visits that have been suggested the next couple proposed this year for CDAS members are fairly local and provide for an interesting insight into historical aspects at each end of the medieval period. Although, for practical timing the visits have had to be arranged in reverse period order.

The first is a Behind the Scenes visit to the Mary Rose Museum in the Historic Portsmouth Dockyard, where the many artefacts from Henry VIII's Flagship are held. The hull of the Mary Rose itself is not currently on public display until next year whilst a new museum to house her is being built, but the artefacts part of the museum remains open. It is also the 500th anniversary year of King Henry VIII's accession to the throne and of his commissioning of the Mary Rose in 1511. Details of the extent of what will be available to view and a final date, sometime mid-2011, are presently being arranged.

The second visit is on 10th September 2011 and will be a guided tour of the ongoing 5 year research dig on St Mary Magdalen's Hospital, Winchester, by the University of Winchester Archaeology Department. This is thought to be possibly the oldest leper hospital site known, with recorded use from the mid-1100's. One of the site directors, Dr Simon Roffey, will provide a special private tour for CDAS members to take around 1-2 hours to see the excavation of the medieval hospital (chapel, infirmary and cemetery and parts of later almshouse) and some finds. There are no costs - except those of getting there! There is then the further option of a pub lunch at the Bell Inn, St Cross, for those who wish to, followed by a visit to the Medieval Hospital of St Cross, with its Norman Church, medieval and Tudor buildings, cloister and gardens. There will be a small charge for this visit. One of the resident Brothers will provide a guided tour and visitors

can receive the Wayfarer's Dole (a small beaker of beer and a morsel of bread, as they have done in ages past.) There are also tea rooms for normal refreshment as well.

The above details should whet your appetites and full details to book places on these visits should be available shortly via the CDAS website. ■

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## Lecture programme for 2011-12

*Yvonne Munro*

27 April 2011 – Professor Barbara Yorke, Winchester University: an archaeology of Anglo-Saxon kingship

25 May – members' evening: celebrating 20 years of CDAS; speakers David Rudkin, Keith Lawson, Anne Bone

28 September – Dr Andy Russel, Southampton Archaeology Unit: "Clausentum": what was going on in Roman Southampton?

26 October – Andy Howard & James Kenny, Chichester District Council: The Chichester City Walls Project

23 November – Martin Brown, Defence Estates: Archaeology on the Defence Estate

14 December – Annual General Meeting and Christmas party

25 January: Sam Moorhead, British Museum: AD 410, The Year that Shook Rome

22 February: to be arranged

28 March: Alex Pluskowski, University of Reading: The Ecology of Crusading (date to be confirmed)

NB – speakers and topics may change. Please check for updates on our website ■

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## Training programme to be launched in April

*Pauline Norris*

The 2010-11 series of training courses was completed on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> with the Flint ID course, which had been postponed from December due to snow. This last year's

programme was really successful with all courses being fully subscribed. Geology of Local Buildings and Roman Glass were new courses to the programme and Flint ID returned after a couple of years' absence. The Society is extremely grateful to all our course tutors for the excellent standard of their content and delivery. Completed feedback forms clearly indicate the high level of satisfaction in every course.

The research for the 2011/2012 programme has been analysed. It is apparent that demand for training is not high in the more traditional topics such as pottery. However, some new ideas have proved popular and some subjects not covered in the last couple of years are planned.

At the time of going to press it is hoped we will run courses on Local Geology of Buildings, Human Bone, Animal Bone, Roman Mosaics and Geophysics. The programme, dates and more information about each course and lecturer should be launched at the lecture meeting and on the website on April 27<sup>th</sup>. All those who have expressed interest by having completed the research form will be offered places first. ■

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## Subscription renewals

The new subscription rates applying from 1 April 2011 were approved unanimously at the Annual General Meeting in December. They are shown on the membership renewal form at the back of this newsletter. An early payment discount is offered for renewals paid in full by 31 May.

A convenient way to do this is by instructing your bank to make payments by standing order. A standing order form has been produced for this purpose. It is being circulated by e-mail and will be available at lecture evenings. Copies can also be requested from the Membership Secretary, Anne Joy (023 9248 0902 – please phone after 6pm on weekdays). The standing order form includes a field to enter your membership number which may be obtained from Anne Joy. Please note that the payment date on the form is 15th April. Please allow at least 3 working days for your bank to process the form. ■



## Friends Of Fishbourne Roman Palace

Keith Lawson

We all need friends - and so does Fishbourne Roman Palace. Joining the Friends gives you a number of benefits not available to the casual visitor with the added satisfaction of knowing that you are making an important contribution to the conservation, renovation and development of the site.

Apart from the inevitable costs of maintaining the 50 year old complex there are always improvements which can be made to help with the presentation of this world-class museum. The Friends exist to provide extra money for the Palace for items which cannot be covered by their regular funding. Their donations include humidity and temperature monitors for the mosaics; a lockable trolley used for mobile finds-handling facility within the North Wing (staffed by volunteers); and a contribution to the cost of a project with Bournemouth University to recommend improvements to update the site presentation. Membership costs £18.50 per year (from 1<sup>st</sup> February) or £37 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children and brings the following benefits:

Free entry to the Palace, Museum and Roman Garden during normal opening

hours, including Roman Army Week and Family Fun Days; a free guidebook and a "Behind the Scenes" tour; newsletter twice a year keeping you up to date with Friends' activities and events; Invitations to Friends' events - including visits to places of interest and talks held at the Palace; 10% discount and priority booking for ticketed events at the Palace; 10% discount on full-price items in the Palace shop and 50% discount in the Lime Café (except branded food and drinks) on production of the Friends Card.

To join, pick up a leaflet at the Palace or at a CDAS meeting, e-mail us at: [fishbournefriends@googlemail.com](mailto:fishbournefriends@googlemail.com), or go to the Fishbourne Roman Palace website and click on Friends to download a leaflet. ■

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### New members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

Joe Baker, Alice Blears, Mary Owen, Sue DeRoure, Valerie Shrubbs, John Pilkington, Jan Dixon, Emma Bullimore and Elizabeth Harrison. ■