



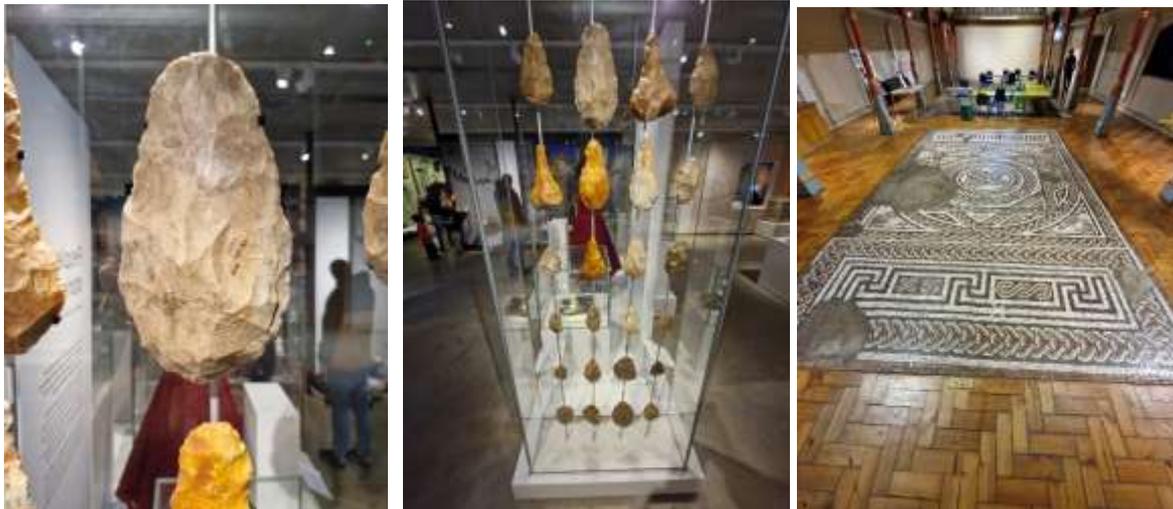
## Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to the February 2026 CDAS Newsletter. This is a relatively short Newsletter, reflecting the time of year. With some signs of spring, I hope you have all avoided the rising waters around the area (see Fieldwork update later and Mark Seaman's photo of Idsworth).

I recently visited Dorchester for the first time in a while and despite the weather had to stop by at Maumbury Ring.



I also visited the Dorset Museum <https://www.dorsetmuseum.org> which seems to have undergone a complete redevelopment since my last visit over 30 years ago (which may account for it being a little pricey at £16.50, we are spoilt with free national museums). It has an excellent Prehistory collection, and well presented in my opinion. I do love 'Open Me' drawers in a museum! Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman also well represented in the galleries.



There was also a very good Thomas Hardy exhibition but that's all I had time for.

## Talks and Lectures Schedule

**The New Park, Chichester 2025**

**2026**

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb – David Pearson. Conservation Manager, The Mary Rose Trust**

*The surviving remains of the hull of the Mary Rose was raised in 1982 to a worldwide audience of 60 million. The conservation began as soon as she was out of the water and*



*continues to this day. The Mary Rose now sits as the centre piece of a museum surrounded by some of the 19,000 artefacts. This talk will discuss the degradation of the wood, why so much survives and the conservation methods used for both the hull and the artefacts.*

For those of you that attended Dave Johnson's talk on the wreck of HMS Adventurous, he mentioned the conservation work carried out by experts at The Mary Rose Trust, David Pearson was involved in that work and much more.

**25<sup>th</sup> March - Miles Russell – An Iron Age cemetery of the Durotriges.**

**22<sup>rd</sup> April - Simon Coleman and Rebecca Wiseman** - A new hypothesis concerning the location of the Norman invasion battlefield.

**May 27<sup>th</sup> – Members evening** – general call to members for anyone who wants to give a 10min talk on research they're working on plus ask the Fieldwork Committee.

**June/July/August** – Summer recess, no lectures.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Francis Wenban-Smith** - Giant hand-axes and other recent Palaeolithic discoveries.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> - Martyn Allen, Oxford Archaeology** – Post-excavation of the discoveries at the Westhampnett Rolls Royce excavations.

**November 25<sup>th</sup> – Helena Griffiths and Andy Bliss** - Prehistoric hunters of the High Weald.

**December 9<sup>th</sup> - AGM** at the hall in Bosham

Thanks to Mark Roberts for getting his first program of talks in place.

All talks are at New Park Cinema, Chichester, from 7:00 pm, 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

No specific CDAS update this month, Committee are considering a number of potential activities which will be featured in future Newsletters.

John Pilkington asked me to share this which may be of interest to CDAS Members;

John received notification of this event from Jeremy Clarke, *the President of the Wealden Buildings Study Group who interpret the history of old timber framed houses by looking at their construction. They have a website: [www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk](http://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk) and we get to visit these old houses and sometimes crawl around (optional) in the lofts and find things associated with witches and the like. I find it fascinating!*

*They have their next meeting and talks at the brief AGM 11.45 on Saturday 14th March 2026 at Wivelsfield Church Hall, the AGM will be followed by a bring your own packed lunch and chat, then a series of short talks:*

*The event will finish before 3pm.*

*Speakers are: Alan & Lesley Dickinson: **Milstead Manor, Kent. 16th century [Grade II\*]***

*Peter Varlow: **The early bellframe at St Thomas à Becket Church, Cliffe, Lewes***



*Jeremy Clarke: 'Broadleys' 34-40 High Street, East Grinstead; a 14th century building where fire/smoke evidence helps with the construction sequence*

*Lisa Fisher: The occupation of North Cray medieval hall in 1462; an experimental and immersive approach*

*There is no charge for WBSG members (it is £5 for quests).*

*If you'd like to go, contact John Pilkington (Jhn.pilkington@gmail) and you can go as his guest.*

**If you have any suggestions for activities or want to get involved arranging an activity, please email [activities@cdas.info](mailto:activities@cdas.info) For full details see the CDAS website [here](#)**

## Fieldwork

I hope you have all seen the request for volunteers (email from Mike Kallaway) for the Geophysical Survey of Halnaker Hill, 9th March to 28<sup>th</sup> March

My thanks to Mark and Mike for the following updates from the Fieldwork Committee

### Completed Activities

The report on the geophysical survey at **Stansted House** in September has been published. We have had further discussions with the Director at Stansted who is most impressed with the work. He has agreed to a further resistivity survey at the front of the house to try to find the Orangerie shown on the Kip engraving. This will hopefully take place over the summer though we will need to avoid the cricket matches that take place at the front.

The report on the work CDAS undertook at **Warblington** over a number of years has been prepared. It has been lodged with Hampshire HER and a printed copy presented to Henry the farmer. Tony King is in the process of editing it for inclusion in the 2026 edition of Hampshire Studies published by the Hampshire Field Club. This project was a major piece of work which involved a significant amount of effort from society members and in particular the project team.

### Recent Activities

In January we completed a Magnetometry survey of the balance of the main church field at **Old Idsworth** which had been planted with sunflowers. We have now surveyed the complete field.

[Well done those scheduling this activity, Mark Seaman recently shared this image on our Whatsapp group , access to the sight could have been tricky]





The Community Archaeology Radiocarbon Dating (CARD) Fund approved our application to date samples taken from the **Medmerry** fish trap that was first surveyed in April. We are expecting the results shortly

A reconnaissance visit was made to **Ellanore Spit near East Wittering** to view a site where the Chichester Harbour Trust plan to deposit 400 tonnes of gravel to reinforce the shoreline. The work is intended to preserve the site for the observation of wading birds. The site is very disturbed and did not appear to have any meaningful archaeology. It will not be included in our Coastal Monitoring programme.

### **Future Activities**

We have approval from Historic England for a geophysical survey of **Halnaker Hill** as part of our hilltop enclosure programme. This would follow on from the surveys of Court Hill and the Trundle. We plan to do the survey in late February and March, see separate email requesting volunteers. The logistics are complicated with three different landowners and three separate fenced off areas.

We plan to make a topographical survey and fingertip search of the **Flint Mines on Kingley Vale in March/April**. The project has been agreed with the Nature Warden but does require approval from Historic England.

We are working on plans for **Coastal Monitoring and Condition Assessment** activities in the Spring.

### **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](mailto: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

### **Competition Time**

2026 marks our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Committee have been discussing how we might mark this milestone (Covid put pay to any celebrations of our 30<sup>th</sup>). James Kenny our President mentioned at a recent Committee meeting that our CDAS logo has served us well, but could do with bringing up to date with a re-brand. Now, we could pay \*Tens of Thousands of Pounds for a Consultancy to come up with a new logo...that in my business experience would look very similar to the old one! Or we could invite Members, their family and friends to have a go at creating a new logo that encapsulates CDAS in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

\*actually, we couldn't!



## Competition Detail;

**What we are asking you do** Design a new CDAS Logo

**When** Submissions November 25 – March 26

We will announce a winner at our May Members Talk

**Who can participate** Members, Members Family or Friends (must be submitted through a CDAS Member)

**Prize** 1 Year's Free CDAS Membership

Cash /Gift Token equivalent

**Terms and Conditions** 1.The Committee's Decision is final. 2. CDAS Committee reserve the right to amend the winning entry to arrive at a final new logo. 3. Entries should be in a format that can be subsequently modified. 4. There is no fee payable by CDAS for any work submitted as part of the competition. 5. The Copyright of any winning logo will be gifted to and owned by CDAS.

## 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>

This is a bit out of our area but may be reachable for some members;

*The Kent Archaeological Society has [...] organised a series of archaeology workshops for KCAS members, students and the public. The series of workshops will take place on Wednesday's from 3pm - 5pm at [University of Kent](#) starting on the 11th March and running until the 27th May.*

*More information and prices can be found on KCAS's google form and website - <https://forms.gle/R7whvtBnbt1K526H9>.*

*Tickets are free for members of KCAS, £3 per session for students or £10 for all sessions and £10 per session for the public or £35 for all sessions.*

*All funds help KCAS cover the cost of hosting the events and any money made will be used towards future academic events and workshops.*

*CBA have announced details of this year's Festival of Archaeology. Details can be found here;*

[Festival Council for British Archaeology](#)

CBA South East issued this "CALL FOR PAPERS"

*Saturday 3rd October 2026, 10am-5pm*



*The Ivan Donald Margary Legacy: a Memorial Conference (50 years after Ivan's death) to celebrate Ivan's life, work and ongoing legacies (an example being Fishbourne Roman Palace). Margary was a national expert on Roman roads, especially in the Weald/South-East.*

*Venue: Kings Church, Lewes*

*Organisers: Sussex Archaeology and History and the Council for British Archaeology South-East*

*Those interested in giving a lecture should send a lecture title and abstract to: david.rudling@sussexarchaeology.co.uk*

Oxford Archaeology published details of their Youtube documentary of their work near the A66 road in Cumbria revealing the hidden story of Brocavum – “not just a Roman fort, but a bustling settlement and cemetery that grew beyond its walls”

<https://youtu.be/RpZazDtA2Lw?si=Y-yyQmWkUeNCBKRv>

Oxford Archaeology also recently shared a link to this free resource on the history and excavations of the Devil's Quoits. You can download the entire publication as a series of pdfs

<https://knowledge.oxfordarchaeology.com/library/5885>

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Thanks for taking the time to read this Newsletter, please feel free to get in touch with suggestions and / or content of your own.

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