



Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to the January 2026 CDAS Newsletter. This Newsletter is my first that I am producing on behalf of Mark Seaman our new Chair and on behalf of the General and Fieldwork Committees. For those that were unable to be at our AGM, I am pleased to say that all our proposed Committee nominees, including the position of Chair were formally approved by those present. The committees will no doubt find their own new rhythms and I hope to be able to bring you updates as I had previously with information provided by them.

If you have any ideas for this Newsletter, please do get in touch I'd welcome submissions of articles, photos or just suggestions. Many members have joined in recent years, I am conscious we have a wealth of knowledge and experience within the society, if you have recollections of past activity in the Chichester area, whether with CDAS or in the wider archaeological community, why not put pen to paper (Word or email might be better). I'm happy to work with whatever you are able to send, don't worry about producing publication ready material.

Committee Update

As mentioned, all nominations were accepted at AGM, both new members and those continuing their tenure. This means your General Committee now consists of ;

President	James Kenny
Chair	Mark Seaman
Secretary	Jane Hunt
Treasurer	Ken Parry
Membership	Richard New
Talks	Mark Roberts
Social Media	John Pilkington
Fieldwork Liaison	Katie Reed

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

2026

28th Jan – James Sainsbury – Hightown Big Dig – James will be reviewing the successes of the community Big Dig at Hightown in July where Worthing Museum joined forces with the National Trust Archaeology and Worthing Archaeological Society and the community including Chichester YAC

25th 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.

As an aside, David will be appearing in the Southsea Shakespeare Actor's March production of Cabin Pressure, an adaptation of the Radio 4 Sitcom. David has a starring role though I think the actor playing two small extras roles, even trusted with a line or two will be the critics favourite...how I got my arm twisted into this I don't know!

Future talks will be announced after AGM as part of the handover of our Talks Co-ordinator

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

There are currently no scheduled activities but I hope once the new Committee is in place we will also have a wider group of members willing and able to arrange visits, walks and study days. I hope to contribute to this group myself. In the meantime,

Mark Seaman has a long list of potential visits and activities that will be discussed at committee. Potential dates and leaders of these activities will be shared in due course. As I mentioned last year, we will be looking for a wider group of individuals willing to 'lead' these activities so as not to create a burden on an individual or small group of individuals

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

Fieldwork

I'm grateful to Mike Kallaway for this summary from the Fieldwork Committee;

We are pleased that Katie Reed will be joining the Fieldwork Committee in the New Year.

Recent Activities

We completed a Magnetometry survey of most of the main church field at Idsworth in August. This was followed by a Mag and Res survey of the nearby Reynard's Field formerly known as Huckswood Field. A report has been published on Reynard's, one will follow on Idsworth once we have had a chance to finish surveying the complete area. [See also below re January activity at Old Idsworth]

We have applied to the Community Archaeology Radiocarbon Dating (CARD) Fund to date samples taken from the Medmerry fish trap that was first surveyed in April. We will know if we have been successful early in the New Year.



In September we completed a Resistivity survey of the gardens at Stansted House. A number of interesting features were revealed, some requiring further investigation. A report has been prepared.

A limited Magnetometry survey was carried out at Pitlands Farm near Stoughton at the request of George Annelay. This may lead to a more comprehensive survey in the future.

Future Activities

We are in the process of applying for permission from Historic England for a geophysical survey of Halnaker Hill as part of our hilltop enclosure programme. This would follow on from the work surveys of Court Hill and the Trundle. If successful the survey would be done sometime between January and March.

We are working on plans for Coastal Monitoring and Condition Assessment activities over the winter and early Spring

I was pleased to be able to join the team of volunteers at Old Idsworth,

We made good progress on the Monday despite the drizzle, volunteers on the Tuesday definitely had the better weather.



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

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 35th Anniversary and Committee have been discussing how we might mark this milestone (Covid put pay to any celebrations of our 30th). 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 21st 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>

David Pearson who is giving our talk in February was a contributor to this paper recently published by Historic England. A guide to excavating waterlogged wood (maybe read it and prepare some awkward questions!);

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/waterlogged-wood/>

I found this interesting, the full paper was available as pdf

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/early-bronze-age-butchered-human-remains-from-charterhouse-warren-somerset-uk.pdf>

Recently featured on Digging For Britain, I know there are some of you that can't watch Dr Alice striding across Iron Age Hill Forts or the archaeologists constantly 'amazed' at 'once in a lifetime' finds so here's a good HE summary of the Iron Age hoard found in Norfolk as part of the Sizewell C excavations.

<https://webmail.historicenglandservices.org.uk/c/1li4dzUKhjDAhN1WDObqEtAiUH>



and on similar theme, here's another 'Pompeii' ! , this time it's Port Talbot's Pompeii

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/>

My thanks to John Crane for sharing this, CDAS members may be interested to join this online lecture;

Researching an Atlas of London in 1666 : This event is run by BALH in partnership with the Historic Towns Trust, part of a series of evening lectures in 2026.

Tuesday 27th January 2026 7:00pm - 8:00pm

https://www.balh.org.uk/event-balh-researching-an-atlas-of-london-in-1666-2026-01-27?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BALH&utm_campaign=newsletter-6913

Don't forget Sussex Archaeological Society have a series of online talks, their Spring Talk series are publicised here;

<https://sussexpast.co.uk/whats-on/>

Finally, here are details of an online event "An Evening With National Trust Archaeologists" including. 7pm – 8.30pm , 3 March 2026 Zoom Online event This event is free to attend

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/get-involved/events-and-activities/event-calendar/an-evening-with-national-trust-archaeologists-2026>

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

Dickie

dickie.spurgin@hotmail.co.uk

Mark Seaman

chairman@cdas.info