

From Trustee David Rudling:

Proposed Cuts to Archaeology at our Universities

Dear Fellow members of CBA SE,

I write to express the grave concerns of myself and others on the CBA SE committee regarding various proposals, both national and specific, that will affect the provision of archaeology teaching and training at universities in the UK. The Government has recently announced proposals for major cuts in funding to the 43 universities who deliver what are considered to be 'C1 high-cost' archaeology degrees. Such cuts will affect the provision of fieldwork opportunities (ie essential practical training) and archaeological science. Strangely such ideas come at a time when there is already a shortage of trained archaeologists in the UK for commercial purposes and are therefore against the national interest if new economic growth and major infrastructure projects are to be undertaken (eg HS2, major house building, etc). More, rather than fewer, trained graduates will be needed to meet these aims. Already the University of Chester is proposing to cut its archaeology provision and is suggesting that there will be staff redundancies. I would urge all members to sign the petition against these specific intentions –

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7BCF0nXutFxKrfNDVacxUd-aZW8TZh6FhBBSIIW0UKLlrSg/viewform>

You may also want to respond to the Office for Students which is currently undertaking a consultation of the Government's general funding proposals for archaeology. See especially Paragraph 13b on page 14; Paragraph 21 on page 17, Table 5 and Appendix A Question 2. Archaeology, along with Media Studies and The Performing Arts, have been selected for massive 50 per cent reductions in government funding for these degree subjects in 2021-2022. Responses are due by May 6th however, so need to be submitted as soon as possible.

<https://officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/consultation-on-recurrent-funding-for-2021-22/>

Such funding cut ideas should remind us of the devastating impact on part-time Higher Education level training in archaeology in the period c. 2010-12 when most of the Continuing Education departments at English universities (including that at the University of Sussex) were closed, archaeology being a major casualty. Also, at about the same time, there was the loss of 'O', 'O/A'

and 'A' Level archaeology in our schools and FE colleges. In addition, other funding cuts resulted in severe reductions in the provision of part-time liberal adult education classes in archaeology.

Today the provision of part-time training, especially with recognised accreditation, for amateur archaeologists is very minimal. Yet, archaeology is a vulnerable and finite resource, and needs both professional and amateur experienced and trained archaeologists to lead and undertake research, rescue and community projects. Now, other than as full-time students at universities, how are amateurs and older students to access suitable practical and academic training in archaeology? For many years I tried to get the last Executive Director of CBA Central/National to reintroduce a CBA Certificate in Archaeology which could be taught by various providers throughout the kingdom. Sadly, I saw no enthusiasm for such a proposal. But now, with a new Director, Neil Redfern, I hope that the CBA will seriously consider the merits of such a national scheme. It might also generate some useful income for CBA coffers. A decade ago at the University of Sussex we had a very successful, highly addictive, and progressive suite of part-time courses which comprised: liberal adult education weekly classes and day schools offered throughout Sussex, two HE level Certificates in Archaeology, a Diploma in Archaeology, a BA in Archaeology and Landscape, an MA in Field Archaeology, and PhD opportunities. Many CCE students went on to undertake either professional or amateur archaeology projects in Sussex or beyond. Now there are no accredited part-time archaeology courses in Sussex. So PLEASE do respond to the Government's funding cut proposals, as otherwise the future for archaeology in the UK will be bleak (strangely so as currently UK archaeology departments internationally include the Top 4 for the 2020 World Subject rankings). Such achievements are, I would have thought, something we should be proud about, not undermine.

David Rudling

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South East

Conferences

Saturday 8th May 2021 (9.30-16.30)

Surrey Archaeological Society Roman Studies Group – Shining a Light on the 1st century AD in SE England

This day conference will be held online via Zoom and discuss the transition from the Iron Age to the Roman period.

9.30 Registration (Participants are urged to log on well before 10.00)

10.00 Welcome (David Bird, Roman Studies Group, Surrey Archaeological Society)

10.05 Chair, Paul Booth, Research Associate, University of Oxford

10.15 Thomas Matthews Boehmer, Doctoral Student University of Cambridge

10.50 Discussion, followed by 11.00 Refreshments

11.15 Tom Brindle, Post-Excavation Manager, Cotswold Archaeology

11.50 Discussion

12.00 Anna Doherty, Senior Ceramicist (with input from Louise Rayner). Archaeology South-East, UCL

12.35 Discussion, followed by 12.45 Lunch (a slideshow will run across the break)

13.30 Tony King, Professor of Roman Archaeology University of Winchester

14.05 Discussion

14.15 Martyn Allen, Senior Project Manager, Oxford Archaeology

14.50 Discussion, followed by 15.00 Refreshments

15.15 David Rudling, Honorary Research Fellow University of Roehampton,

15.50 Discussion

16.00 Mike Fulford, Professor of Archaeology University of Reading

16.35 Discussion, followed by 16.45 Chair Summing up and final discussion

17.00 Thanks and close

Tickets £5 Book online at <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/shining-a-light-on-the-transition-from-late-iron-age-to-early-roman-se-england-zoom>

Saturday 9th October 2021 (9.00-17.00)

Sussex School of Archaeology – Sussex Archaeology Symposium

Keep this date in your diary.

Venue: Kings Church, Lewes

Booking details will be available in due course.

CBA Events

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic it is advised that you should contact the organisers of any events to confirm that there have been no changes or cancellations before booking to take part.

CBA Festival of Archaeology

Saturday 17th July – Sunday 1st August 2021

The **CBA Festival of Archaeology** will be held with the theme of **Exploring Local Places**



This year we have chosen the theme *Exploring local places*. We want it to be all about helping people discover the archaeology and heritage that is all around them. We want people to get out and explore their local places, to discover stories, sites, buildings, places, people and events that make our local communities so special. Yes, we are mindful that we may still be under some form of lockdown restrictions and social distancing so the Festival will be a hybrid event with lots of self-guided and online activities alongside our traditional on the ground events.

Help us celebrate local sites, stories and the people who lived in and shaped our local places. Archaeology is a great tool to help do this through asking great questions about the places we live: How have they changed and how do we use them today? Who lived and worked there in the past and do we use them in the same way today? What can you see today that would have been in the landscape 10, 100 or even a 1,000 years ago?

Watch out for our growing list of events, activities and competitions and sign up for our regular updates via the [Festival website](#).

If you can't wait until April, we still have a range of fantastic events and activities from the 2020 Festival that you can view at any time. Search the [event listings](#) or watch our highlights video of [The CBA in 2020 – YouTube](#).

CBA notifications

We've put together some ideas to get you involved in Festival activities

Try our [Local Explorer Bingo Challenge](#) and see how many things you can find. This is a great activity to do on your daily walk.

Take a wander down your local high street and think about how it has changed over time. This could make a great research project (don't forget social distancing).

Discover [Dig School](#) and learn how you can use archaeology to find out about the people who lived on your doorstep. Dig School is a series of online workshops and activities ending with the opportunity to dig a test pit in your own back garden!

Try out or make a self-guided walk and share it with others.

Got a question about an object, site, feature or simply curious about something unusual? Have it ready to get answers from archaeologists around the world on [Ask An Archaeologist Day](#).

Share your archaeological experience as part of [A Day In Archaeology](#).

Watch out for our growing list of events, activities and competitions and sign up for our regular updates via the [Festival website](#).



An archaeological resources hub is now available with suggestions of free resources for anyone engaged in archaeology in any capacity: <http://blog.archaeologyuk.org/2020/03/24/archaeology-resources-hub/>.

The CBA is now booking events for the Festival which commences on 17th July 2021. A growing list can be found on:

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/>

Online presentations

Kent Archaeological Society has a programme of free online events hosted on Teams and available on YouTube soon after.

Tuesday 11th May (19.30): **Our Neighbours in Empire: a tour of Belgium and the Netherlands in the Roman era.** A talk by Dr Steve Willis

Tuesday 8th June (19.30): **The KAS collections; some of the highlights from our curator.** A talk by Dr Elizabeth Blanning

Tuesday 13th July (19.30): **Sorting the wheat from the chaff in Kent cropmarks.** A talk by Chris Blair Myers

Details and booking: communications@kentarchaeology.org.uk

Surrey Heritage is running a series of Zoom lectures on local and social history.

Cost £5 and book online at: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/events>

Wednesday 12th May (19.30): **Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Sources for the History of Surrey's Mental Hospitals**

Wednesday 26th May (19.30): **Portrait of a Surrey town between the wars: the photographic archive of Sidney Francis**

Wednesday 9th June (19.30): **From Punishment to Pride: LGBTQ + archives at SHC**

Wednesday 23rd June (19.30): **James Henry Pullen (1835-1916) and the Royal Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, Redhill**

Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust has organised a lecture by Dr Andrew Richardson via Zoom: Details from www.canterburytrust.co.uk/fcat

Thursday 13th May (19.00) **Eanswythe Found?** This discusses the research into the human bones found in a Folkestone church in the 19th century and its results.

LAMAS has a lecture on Zoom with booking available for non-members via Eventbrite for a £2.50 fee.

Tuesday 11th May (18.30): **'In this Heather hath many camps bin pitched': the West London Landscapes Project in context.** Presented by Jon Cotton and Nicholas Elsdon.

Richmond Archaeological Society – National Trust Archaeology in Kent and East Sussex Friday 14th May 2021 (20.00)

This talk will be by Natalie Cohen (NT).

Details and booking info from www.richmondarchaeology.org.uk

Lewes Priory Trust has organised online talks on the history of Lewes and the medieval monastery. Cost £5 per lecture. Details from: enquiries@lewespriory.org.uk

Tuesday 4th May (19.30): **What did the Cluniacs ever do for us?**

Friday 7th May (19.30): **The destruction and rediscovery of the Priory**

Tuesday 11th May (19.30): **Caring for a heritage site into the future**

Friday 14th May (19.30): **What the latest research is telling us.**

Butser Ancient Farm has launched **Butser Plus**: a way to enter the world of Butser Ancient Farm online with professional video content. Details here:

<https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus>

There is also a blog about the completion of the Horton Neolithic House just in time for visiting:

<https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/blog/2021/4/18/neolithic-house-project-the-completion-of-the-horton-house>

Culver Project Due to the ongoing Covid situation volunteering at Bridge Farm is now scheduled to start on the **21st June** when the current restrictions on outdoor gatherings are '*due to be*' relaxed. Because of the extra safety requirements this year we must ask **everyone to formally apply** to take part by sending the application form on our website or just emailing to join@culverproject.co.uk.

NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ON SITE WITHOUT COMPLYING IN ADVANCE WITH OUR COVID SAFETY PROTOCOL

A list of the full COVID related requirements for participation will be sent to every applicant and added to the CAP website once we can establish the definitive procedures for the post 21st June period.

The Novium Museum from Monday 31st May to Saturday 5th June will be participating in the Chichester Roman Week.

Details from: www.thenovium.org/romanweek and early booking is essential

Grants

The **CBA South East** has been able to offer grants to suitable archaeological projects for a number of years. The types of project vary and have included community activities, research, excavation, and support towards publication. A good number of excavations have had CBASE support, over all the region. Some of the funding has gone towards the cost of hiring equipment. Some archaeological groups have been supported with help towards the purchase of specialist equipment or geophysical work. Other grants have been awarded for archaeological training courses, and teacher training.

Projects that offer encouragement and fieldwork for school children and Young Archaeologists Clubs are regularly supported and are applicable specifically to our Young Archaeologists grant scheme, whose application can be found online.

If your group or project is lacking in funding then the CBASE may be a source of funds. The committee meets every 4 months and applications can be reviewed throughout the year. If you would like to apply for a CBASE grant contact the Grants Officer at john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk for an application form and terms and conditions. If successful then a note about the project will be requested for publication in the newsletter.

Sally Christian Grants are available from **Sussex Archaeological**

Society to support individuals starting out in archaeology as amateurs or students (including sixth formers) to assist with the costs of practical or academic training, and to enable them to gain experience in archaeological fieldwork and other forms of research in Sussex. Grants are available for short courses and dayschools, covering such subjects as surveying, excavation methods, environmental sampling, drawing and/or identifying finds; and attendance at relevant conferences or research projects. Feedback will be required from successful applicants.

Further details are available from the Society's Research Officer (research@sussexpast.co.uk) to whom all applications should be submitted at least five weeks before a proposed funded course or project takes place.

Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society has limited funds available to award a grant to individuals researching any aspect of the history or archaeology of Canterbury and its region. It is envisaged that a grant would not normally exceed £500.

The deadline for applications is 30th June 2020.

For full details of the application conditions contact beechnings1@gmail.com.

Give as you Live

A free way to raise money for CBA South East when shopping online.

Fund raising on behalf of the Council for British Archaeology South East, supporting annual grants to be awarded for archaeological research in the region, can be as simple as using this fund raising platform – <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/> – and costs nothing more than the advertised price of your goods.

Details of how to use Give as you Live can be found on our website: www.cbасouth-east.org/raise-money-for-cba-se-for-free/

Please email any events, talks, recent publications relevant to the south-east, or fieldwork opportunities to events@cbасouth-east.org

Next e-letter will be issued approximately **July 1st** – please send any July, August and September items by **June 25th**.

Keep up-to-date on the website www.cbасouth-east.org and follow us on

 www.facebook.com/CBASouthEast and  [@CBASouthEast](https://twitter.com/CBASouthEast).