

From the Group Secretary

Dear Members,

I hope I will be forgiven for continuing the theme of the last two Newsletter front pieces.

In July, Sheffield University ratified plans to close its world-ranking archaeology department despite protests from students, staff, cultural institutions (including the CBA, the Society of Antiquaries and the European Association of Archaeologists) and a petition now standing at over 47,000 signatures. The department is not going down without a fight, however, and the Sheffield branch of the University and College Union has now instigated formal dispute proceedings with the University.

In further bad news from academia, the University of Hull has also announced the cessation of undergraduate archaeology teaching. Like Sussex and Kent (the latter no longer offer its part-time evening route to a BA in Archaeological Studies from its Tonbridge centre), this department attracted dedicated mature students, including those who wanted a change in career, would go on to postgraduate study and/or make major contributions to the work of local societies and groups.

Bizarrely, archaeology seems to be being regarded in certain sectors as one of the 'soft' liberal arts subjects that are increasingly regarded as being of no use to society or the individuals who study them (the latter a view not held by the author). This is despite a nationwide shortfall in the number of trained archaeologists needed for major infrastructure projects, a situation exacerbated by Brexit and leading to the inclusion of archaeology in the skills shortage list. By contrast, archaeology was treated as part of the construction industry during lockdown, testifying to its importance to the economy.

If you are reading this, you believe that archaeology is important. Please keep yourself informed and support our beleaguered profession. You can do this by following the Dig for Archaeology campaign <https://www.dig4arch.co.uk/>.

Better news came recently in the result of the judicial review into Grant Schapps' decision to give the go-ahead to the controversial Stonehenge Tunnel, against the advice of an independent panel. Chiefly, the decision was judged unlawful as it failed to assess the impact on individual assets, rather than simply the 'historic environment' as a whole. His overturning of the advice from his Expert Panel without any evidential base for doing so was also considered unlawful, after he misconstrued the advice of Historic England and provided 'unlawfully inadequate and unintelligible' reasons for his disagreement.

The full judgement can be found here <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Save-Stonehenge-v-SST-judgment.pdf>.

While this is good news (for now), the judicial review only happened because of a crowd-funded campaign which was able to raise the £50,000 required. Nevertheless, it shows the power that community action can bring to bear. There is a sting in the tail, however, as it appears that, despite the ruling and work being paused, Highways England are still working on the procurement process, with project manager David Bullock saying, “We still believe our project is the best solution to the ongoing issues along the A303 past Stonehenge, it has been developed after a long and extensive collaboration with our key stakeholders, and we are still very much motivated to leave a legacy beyond the road – for Stonehenge, the World Heritage Site, our local communities and future generations.”

More cheerfully, it has been good to see local groups and societies begin to undertake fieldwork again. Let us hope that this is the beginning of a return to normality. In the meantime, look out for details of our next conference, *Archaeology of the Church: Perspectives from Recent Work in the South-East*, to be held jointly with Surrey Archaeological Society on Saturday 27th November via Zoom and our AGM .

Elizabeth Blanning
CBA-SE Secretary

Finally, the University of Worcester has announced that it will be closing its Archaeology Dept. There is a petition to support the staff and students here: <https://www.change.org/p/university-of-worcester-save-worcester-s-archaeology-department/psf/share>.

CBA SE AGM

This year’s annual general meeting will be held online via Zoom on Thursday 14th October. Following last year’s format, we will have a special lecture at 19:00 (tbc), free and open to all, followed by the AGM for CBA-SE members at 20:00.

Registration is required in advance to receive the joining info for the meeting. Please follow the link below for registration, as well as the website for more details. The membership will also be emailed with final details closer to the time.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocO-vqT0iGt3an7fdVck1vTSt5w5DeUQu>

CBA South East Conference

Saturday 27th November 2021 (10.00-16.00)

CBA South East Annual Conference – Archaeology of the Church: Perspectives from Recent Work in the South-East (a date for your diary)

This event will be held in conjunction with Surrey Archaeological Society (as their annual Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework) and will be presented via Zoom.

Speakers include Gabor Thomas (University of Reading) on Lyminge, Alistair Douglas (Pre-Construct Archaeology) on Bermondsey Abbey, Natalie Cohen (National Trust) on Canterbury Cathedral archaeology, Andrew Richardson (Canterbury Archaeological Trust), Ellie Williams and Lesley Hardy (CCCU) on St Eanswythe, Jo Seaman (Eastbourne Borough Council) on recent work at St Mary's Eastbourne, Michael Shapland (Archaeology South-East) on Chichester and Selsey Abbey, and Rob Briggs and Chris Reynolds (Surrey County Council) on the tomb monument of Sir Thomas Cawarden from St Mary the Virgin's church, Bletchingley.

A full programme and booking details will be available on the CBA SE website soon.

Other SE Conferences

Saturday 9th October 2021 (9.00-17.00)

Sussex Archaeology Symposium

A number of confirmed speakers include Richard Toms, Dr David Rudling and Mark Roberts with talks ranging across periods in Sussex archaeology and history.

Venue: King's Church, Lewes

Cost: £35 which includes refreshments and a pre-ordered lunch.

Booking available from: <https://www.sussexarchaeology.org/>

Saturday 27th November 2021 (8.40-17.30)

Southeast England Regional Conference – Conserving the Heritage of Southeast England

A full programme has been arranged and includes contributions from Matt Pope and Geoff Mead

Venue: King's Church, Lewes.

Cost: £30 which includes refreshments and a buffet lunch.

Booking available from: anthony.brook27@btinternet.com

Events

Saturday 4th September – Sunday 5th September 2021 (10.00-16.00)

Butser Ancient Farm – **Saxon Textiles Weekend**

Colchester Reenactment Society will be displaying weaving, spinning, dying and wool production around the Saxon Halls.

Usual administration fees apply but advance booking required.

Contact: www.butserancientfarm.digitickets.co.uk/tickets

Saturday 4th September – Sunday 5th September 2021

Weald & Downland Museum – **Historic Life Weekend**

This will focus on the buildings at the heart of the museum - their construction and conservation, with demonstrations of building methods.

Bookings and details from: wealddown.co.uk/events/historic-buildings/

Saturday 11th September – Sunday 12th September 2021 (14.00-16.30)

Orpington and District Archaeological Society – **Scadbury Manor Open Weekend**

Visit the foundations of this Tudor manor house.

Details from: www.odas.org.uk

Saturday 18th September – Sunday 19th September 2021 (10.00-16.00)

Butser Ancient Farm – **Vikings Attack + Boat Burn**

An action packed weekend and an evening of entertainment and music to celebrate the equinox.

Administration fees apply but advance booking required.

Contact: www.butserancientfarm.digitickets.co.uk/tickets

Butser Ancient Farm has more events in September and October.

Details for all of these from: www.butserancientfarm.co.uk

A new initiative by the **South Downs National Park** to involve 16-25 year olds.

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/south-downs-youth-action-returns-bigger-and-better-than-ever/>

Contact: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/contact/> for booking details.

Courses

Wednesday 22nd September 2021 (10.30-12.30)

Rottingdean Whiteway Centre – **The Romans**

This 10 week course will be led by Dr David Rudling who will consider aspects of Roman history and culture

Venue: Rottingdean Whiteway Centre

Cost: £84

Details and booking from: enrolments@rwc.org.uk

Friday 24th September 2021 (10.00-12.00)

Rottingdean Whiteway Centre – **Brighton and Hove: Aspects of the City**

This 10 week course will be led by Dr Geoffrey Mead who will discuss the variety of ‘city’ villages within the conurbation.

Venue: Rottingdean Whiteway Centre

Cost: 384

Details and booking from enrolments@rwc.org.uk

The Rottingdean Whiteway Centre expects these courses to be ‘in person’ but may become online sessions if Covid restrictions apply.

The Sussex School of Archaeology and History

The School has been developing new online offerings and has decided to expand its remit to cover aspects of history. This has been led by the widespread appreciation on online technology and the massive gaps in South East England of the provision of local courses, events and conferences for those interested in archaeology and history.

Offerings in Autumn 2021 will include:

Online courses: weekly 2 hour classes

Online Study Days: Saturday Schools (10-4)pm)

Online Lectures: ‘Meet the Experts’- 1 hour lectures, followed by Q&A

Details of fees and booking from: www.sussexarchaeology.org

Courses will include:

From 20th September **Romans in Sussex**

From 21st September **The Vikings**

From 22nd September **The Victorian World**

From 30th September **An introduction to the Aegean Bronze Age**

Lectures and talks

Some of the following events are being presented via Zoom and there may be audience restrictions or requirements if they are 'in person'. Please check with the organisers before booking.

Monday 6th September 2021 (19.15)

Dorking Local History Group – Mills of the River Wandle

Talk by Mick Taylor of the Wandle Industrial Museum discussing how mills have shaped the identity of the River Wandle for centuries.

Venue: Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking

Details (membership may be required) from: <https://dlhg.org.uk/programme/>

This group has an interesting programme of mixed 'in person' and Zoom talks from Sept to Dec.

Wednesday 8th September 2021 (17.30-18.45)

Surrey History Centre – Richard III: A Drama in Three Acts

This **online** talk explores the dramatic events of Richard's reign affected the county and its leaders; shedding light on the reasons for his downfall.

Fee £5: booking essential from: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/events>

The History Centre is running a full Zoom programme of talks from Sept to Nov.

Friday 10th September 2021 (14.30)

Friends of Guildford Museum – Wanborough Manor: Surrey's School for Secret Agents

A talk by Paul McCue

Venue: Guildhall, High Street, Guildford

Visitors welcome £10: booking from: <https://tickets.visitguildford.com>

Further public talks are planned.

Monday 13th September 2021 (19.30)

Lewes History Group – The Ouse Valley's Pits: using chalk and making landscapes.

This **online** talk is by Will Pillfold

Non-members £4; booking essential from: <https://leweshistory.org.uk/meetings/>

This group has a monthly series of Zoom lectures available.

Monday 13th September 2021 (20.00-21.00)

Richmond Local History Society – Tracing the history of your house

A talk by Melanie Backe-Hansen, an independent house historian.

Venue: Duke Street Church, Richmond

Visitors: £4: details from: rich.hist@yahoo.co.uk or www.richmondhistory.org.uk

This society is running a full programme of talks from September.

Tuesday 14th September 2021 (19.00)

Kent Archaeological Society – Do Things Made in Fifth Century Britain Have Ethnicity

An online talk by Prof. Robin Fleming highlighting the difficulties that arise when we ascribe ethnic identities to things and then use them to determine the ethnicities of their makers.

Details from: <https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/events/tue-14-sep-2021-1900/professor-robin-fleming-do-things-made-fifth-century-britain-have>

Friday 17th September 2021 (19.00-20.00)

Sussex School of Archaeology and History – Primitive Money and the Origins of Coinage.

This online lecture will explore the purposes of money in ancient times and the wide variety of forms that ‘money’ can take.

Fee £4.50 - Details and booking from: www.sussexarchaeology.org

The Sussex School will be holding a number of online lectures during the autumn with details available from the website.

Friday 8th October 2021 (19.30)

Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society – Iron Industry of the Weald: Recent Finds and Experiments

A talk by Simon Stevens (ASE and WIRG) exploring the archaeological investigation of the physical remains of this important local industry. Venue: Brighton and Hove Girls’ School, Montpelier Road, Brighton

Non-members: £4; details from: http://www.brightonarch.org.uk/6_1.htm

This society is also running a monthly programme of talks.

Wednesday 27th October 2021 (19.30)

USAS – Roman woodworking from SE England

This is an online lecture by Damian Goodburn (MoLA)

Details from www.sussexarchaeology.org

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, with some of the funding going towards the cost of hiring equipment, including support towards the purchase of specialist equipment.

Geophysical projects have been supported in the past, as have school digs. Projects that offer encouragement and field work for school children are often supported. Other grants have been awarded for archaeological training courses and teacher training. Research has had grants for numerous investigations including the studies of Valencian tiles, Palaeolithic finds in the Lewes museum, metalwork from the Frensham excavations and a study of tesserae from the Southwick Roman Villa.

A number of archaeologically related publications have been supported with children's journals, a book on the Wealden Iron Industry, and a publication on the Reculver Roman Fort among the awards. Other projects which have been awarded grants have included financial assistance for carbon 14 dating. Any archaeological project whether field or post excavation can be worthy of support.

There is also a ring-fenced Young Archaeologists fund for YAC and Museum Groups which may need some small funds to kickstart projects and events.

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.

CBA YAC Grants

In addition to CBA-SE's own Young Archaeologists grant funding, YAC have launched a small grants scheme to help YAC branches with COVID recovery.

The grants are **£200** per branch and there are no restrictions on what they can be spent on, as long as they help with restarting in-person sessions.

The funding has come from several different pots. For English Clubs, **Historic England** have made funds available as part of their broader core funding for the YAC.

For Northern Ireland and Scotland, the **CBA** have helped fund the YAC, and funding has already been provided to YAC Welsh groups via the **NLHF project, Unloved Heritage**, managed by Cadw.

You can read the full blog about the YAC grants by following <https://www.yac-uk.org/news/launching-small-grants-for-yac-groups>


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

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 **November 1st** – please send any November, December and January items by **October 27th**.

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)