

Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to my August CDAS Newsletter.

Just a brief update again this month before we meet again at New Park in September for the recommencement of our Talks program.

My thanks to Sally Church for bringing to my attention, that CDAS's activities in Priory Park are featured in this month's Current Archaeology. For those of you who don't subscribe to this journal the online version of the report is available here;

<https://the-past.com/news/barbican-uncovered-in-chichester/>

Last Newsletter I shared some gratuitous pics from my trip to Lewis and the Callanish stones which kept me from the Priory Park Dig. In late July I also missed all the activity included in the Festival of British Archaeology, including the Open Day at Fishbourne and Worthing Museum's High Down dig. I hope many of you had the opportunity to see what was going on with these events and others further afield.

For my part I was on my second holiday this year. Having enjoyed re-visiting Callanish, Holiday 2 was my wife's choice and we visited Lake Garda. I did find time to visit some archaeology. We stayed in Sirmione, a five minute walk away from the mis-named Grottoes of Catullus Roman Villa. A great deal of the villa remains intact and is quite spectacular on the Sirmione Peninsular promontory. Here are just a few pictures;



Further along the Lake, a short ferry hop, we also visited The Roman Villa of Desenzano with some fantastic mosaics still in situ ;



On my visit to Lewis, the locals were trying to dis-own Donald Trump whose mother was born on the island. I wonder whether his more distant ancestry lies in Northern Italy as the character on the left of the mosaic bore an uncanny resemblance!

For me, the archaeological highlight was the Museo Rambotti, museum which bills itself as a "showcase" for Lake Garda's pile dwellings.



During a flying visit to Verona we did manage to see the Amphitheatre but I was also impressed with how some archaeological sites had been built around and incorporated into the urban architecture.



I can highly recommend all these sites if your travels take you to Lake Garda and its surrounds.

Chichester YAC were fortunate to be involved in Worthing Museum's dig at Highdown and at the conclusion of this activity, James Sainsbury contacted us via Steve Cleverly with information on an appeal the Museum is launching as part of its re-imagining. Details of the campaign can be found here;

[Help us reach our target of £35,000 | Worthing Theatres and Museum](#)

James explains ;

At Worthing Museum we're proud to be custodians of an incredibly important archaeological collection containing artefacts of national significance from Worthing and wider Sussex.

We are now incredibly excited to share news of the launch of our fundraising campaign to support the redisplay of our collection, with the ambition of raising £35,000 towards new display cases, ambient lighting, interactive technology and refreshed interpretation. As you may know this work is long overdue!

At the heart of the campaign is recognition of the role local antiquarians and archaeologists have played in the discovery, research and conservation of artefacts, and pays tribute to this by inviting donors to sponsor one of their favourite objects at graduated levels of support.

The fundraising campaign integrates with the very exciting Highdown Big Dig, taking place between Saturday 19th July and Friday 1st August, where the museum will work in partnership with Worthing Archaeological Society and the National Trust in excavating this popular local landmark. This project will be the first of its kind at Highdown in nearly forty years and will employ over one hundred volunteers, alongside specialists utilising new technologies to illuminate Highdown's history like never before. We would be thrilled to see you on site, where trenches and test pits, along with the finds therein, will be viewable to visitors.

In the meantime, any support you can give to help us achieve our fundraising target, by spreading the word or even donating yourself, would be greatly appreciated.



Your Society Needs You

As we enter the autumn schedule, the preparation for AGM is again upon us. We have a problem that literally could be existential for the society. I'll re-iterate past pleas for volunteers to put themselves forward to join our General Committee. No-one will be 'out of their' depth, full help and training will be provided and where necessary sharing of roles can be considered – for instance, if you have good administration skills but few contacts in the archaeological world, we can buddy you up with some of many experienced folk in the sector who can provide the 'black book' of contacts.

Let's be honest, most people don't enjoy committee work (some strange people do I know) but it is a necessity of keeping the Society running, please consider contributing even if only for a year.

Committee meets regularly, maybe up to 7 or 8 times a year but we are constitutionally only bound to meet 4 times per annum. If 4 meetings is all you can make then that is fine, it will get us through the year and keep the Society active. I've quoted this before and make no apology for using again "*Without people you're nothing*" – Joe Strummer, I think he had CDAS in mind!

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

24th September James Kenny - Priory Park

22nd October; William Foot "Of George and Allectus" – writing an archaeological novel

26th November; Lawrence Shaw - Forestry England and Archaeology

10th Dec; AGM Details tbc

All 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

Summer Social Apologies, my calendar has become quite full and we have extra grandchildren child minding obligations over this period I've not been able to find a slot for this. Best laid plans and all that.

6th September Walking Tour of Roman (and Medieval) Chichester - Part 2

led by our President, James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council, this is the second opportunity to complete Part II of the walk.

To book any of the above, please email activities@cdas.info For full details see the CDAS website [here](#)

Fieldwork

My thanks to Mike Kallaway for this update

Coastal Monitoring

We had a well-attended visit to the north end of Langstone Harbour recording features found on the last visit ten years ago and locating some new features.

East Hampnett Pond

CDC are managing a project where new ponds are being established or old ones being restored. A small team undertook a watching brief for the East Hampnett pond. No archaeology was identified in pond. However, some possible areas of interest were noted in the surrounding area. It was agreed CDAS would attend future pond digs.

Idsworth

We conducted a Magnetometry survey of the main church field at Idsworth starting on 11th August. We hope to follow this with a geophysical survey of the nearby Huckswood field.

****Stop Press**** My thanks to Bart Smith for sharing these photos;





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

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>

Worthing Museum posted this video of the High Down dig, it is on Facebook but I believe it can be viewed without having to have a FB account;

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/175HthVhxb/>

they also have a series of Autumn talks listed on their website;

<https://wtm.uk/events/autumn-lecture-series>

and finally, The Sussex Archaeological Society have also published details of their annual conference;

<https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/the-sussex-archaeological-society-conference>

Thanks for taking the time to read the newsletter – any ideas for future inclusion please let me know.

Dickie

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