Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to the October 2026 CDAS Newsletter.

Last month I was joined by a number of CDAS Members (plus dog) for a walk around Cissbury Ring looking at the Iron Age Hill Fort and the Neolithic Flint mines. Writing this in the eye of the second storm this week, I'm already missing the weather we enjoyed. Here's just a few pics of the walk

Then earlier in October, CDAS Members, family and friends got together at New Park for the Quiz arranged by John Pilkington and ably hosted by Ian and Ros Cheatham. It was great night, well done for the organisation. Congratulations to the winning team 😉. This could become a regular occurrence, Ian kindly offered to run another in the New Year and if it becomes a regular event , maybe other members could set the quiz so Ian and Ros could participate. Whilst the event did raise funds it was really nice as a social event to get together and gain an insight into members other interests and knowledge!

Thanks to Ros for capturing these photos of the event;

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

2026

October 28th - Martyn Allen, Oxford Archaeology – Prehistoric activity and an Iron Age/Roman settlement at Rolls-Royce Goodwood Plant, Westhampnett

Excavations beside Stane Street at Westhampnett in 2023 and 2024 revealed prehistoric activity belonging to the Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age. The Neolithic to Early Bronze Age remains centred on pits containing material deposited by probably mobile communities using the area. Artefacts and radiocarbon dates determined the presence Middle Iron Age settlement, although its character remains uncertain, largely owing to the creation of a large enclosure in the 1st century AD probably very soon after the Roman Conquest. The enclosure appears to have been maintained until its abandonment in the early 2nd century AD. The site subsequently expanded as an agricultural settlement closer to Stane Street, potentially continuing into the 3rd century before its own decline. Settlement features included timber buildings, enclosures, ovens and wells. One well retains an exceptionally well-preserved timber lining used for new oxygen-isotope dating techniques. Overall, the site contributes to our understanding of earlier prehistoric activity in the Chichester region and the pivotal changes that occurred across the Iron Age/Romano-British transition.

Roman timber well lining dating to the 2nd–3rd century AD (© Oxford Archaeology)

November 25th – Helena Griffiths and Andy Bliss - Prehistoric hunters of the High Weald.

December 9th - AGM at the hall in Bosham

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

See above – watch out for details of the next quiz.

Flushed with the success of the Cissbury Walk, I'm minded to lead another, I was thinking there are plenty of walks in the area, would folk be up for a walking group? – walks don't need

to be ‘guided’ in terms of imparting a running commentary but could just be nice walks that happen to take in some of the surrounding archaeology. There are many well trodden walks that we could try out? Let me know if you’d like to be involved, I’ll maybe set up a sub group in our WhatsApp Group

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

No update this month

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

There was coverage of this Archaeological excavations undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at Hanson’s Over/Needingworth Quarry on social media, the fully report is available here (free to download)

https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/items/f5496e43-e3fe-43d8-904b-8d61dd7c4271

Oxford Cotswold Archaeology (OCA) has continued its excavations on the East Suffolk coastline at the Aldhurst Farm site as part of preparations for the new Sizewell C nuclear power station;

https://oxfordcotswoldarchaeology.org.uk/site/aldhurst-farm

Historic England have upgraded access to their databases

https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/heritage-gateway

This presentation was delivered as part of The Council for British Archaeology and CIfA's Early Careers Special Interest Group ran an online conference for early career archaeologists and heritage specialists . This well delivered talk asks the question; “Is the deposition of Trevisker ware Pottery at the Bronze Age Settlement in Boden structured?

https://youtu.be/06inu2luTHk?is=9Jk5eXdKAERhYpWu

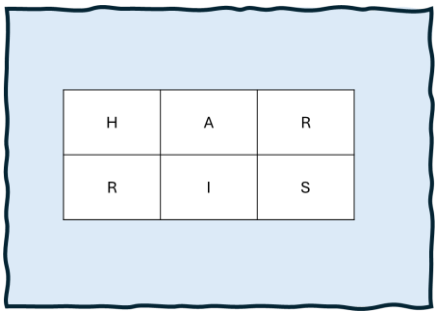
Finally, a bit of popular archaeology. I’ve just enjoyed Bettany Hughes’ latest programme - *“An ancient grave in Estonia challenges long-held truths about the Viking era. Did it begin before we think? And does a legendary king who inspired an epic saga lie here?”*

https://www.channel4.com/programmes/secrets-of-a-viking-ship-with-bettany-hughes

DiGBats

Answers to last month’s DiGBats; Rollright Stones, Altar (Alter) Stone – I did say it was tenuous!

Just a couple this monthl



If you think of any DigBats, please forward them to me, if you can’t do the formatting, describe it and I’ll have a go at creating it. I’m aware of the additional rod I have made for my own back! Answers in Next Months Newsletter.

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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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