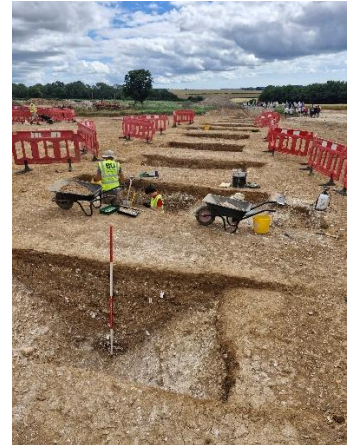


Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to the August 2026 CDAS Newsletter. I hope you are all keeping well in the heat and enjoying all the news items about parch marks revealing hidden features under the ground that *nobody knew about*...apart from when they were revealed in 1976. I look forward to seeing you all again at New Park on 23 September as we kick off our Autumn Talks with **Francis Wenban-Smith** - Giant hand-axes and other recent Palaeolithic discoveries.

A lot has happened since my last newsletter, in June I took a trip along the coast to Dorset to visit The Durotriges Project Big Dig. Our Treasurer Ken Parry volunteered for the dig and can be seen photo-bombing Miles Russell in one of these photos.



It was great to see the Project in operation on a comparatively vast scale, one of the key take aways for me was that we should have a licenced bar on our digs!

In July my wife and I visited Salzburg, I had intended a trip out to Hallstatt but the travel logistics didn't quite work out. I did however visit the Pile Dwelling Museum in Mondsee, housed in the Abbey, used for the wedding in *The Sound of Music*...we did a lot TSOM sites mostly on The Fraulein Maria Bike tour where you are encouraged to sing along as you ride through the city and surrounding countryside - very silly but good fun.



Mondsee Culture coincides roughly with our early 4th Century BCE Windmill Hill Culture

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

2026

September 23rd – Francis Wenban-Smith - Giant hand-axes and other recent Palaeolithic discoveries.

October 28th - Martyn Allen, Oxford Archaeology – Post-excavation of the discoveries at the Westhampnett Rolls Royce excavations.

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.

******Raffle September****** Sam and Anne Joy are away for the September talk so unable to run the raffle. Sam has asked if anyone could step in to run the raffle in their absence please get in touch. (They didn't want anyone to feel obligated if they have helped out in the past so haven't asked directly).

Activities

In June, 24 members of CDAS and friends had a most enjoyable walk round Old Idsworth. exploring the medieval dovecot, the walled gardens and the 18thC icehouse at Old Idsworth Gardens. The story of the wall painting at St Huberts created a lot of interest, particularly Salome's erotic sword dance! The group also examined the pottery and bone finds.



In July, Richard New and Sue Soames represented CDAS at the Fishbourne 'meet the experts' open day as part of the Festival of Archaeology 2026. They had our handling trays for visitors to explore and handle. We also took the YAC youngsters to the event as Fishbourne had laid on specific activities for them.

The General Committee have spent the summer break arranging a 'pub' quiz, this is now confirmed for Thursday 8th October. I have agreed with Mark Seaman, our Chairman to run a walk to Cissbury. We had previously pencilled in Monday 24th August for this visit/walk but that now clashes with the Seeley Copse dig. Therefore, I will now lead this walk on Monday 21 September.



Mon 21 September : Cissbury Walk , led by Dickie Spurgin. This will be a short walk (approx 2.5 miles) around Cissbury Ring exploring its main features. **Note**; whilst a relatively short walk, there is a reasonably steep climb to reach the hill fort and it can be quite uneven under foot.

Meet: Cissbury Car Park 10:30 a.m, please email dickie.spurgin@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to join this walk, free to CDAS members, £5 for non-members.

Thursday 8 October CDAS Pub Quiz

Details to follow, including how to book. We are trying out a new booking system so bear with us. The quiz will be open to individuals and teams. If you can muster a team of 4 that would be great but if you want to attend on your own, you'd be welcome to join a team on the night

Thanks to John Pilkington for getting this arranged, I know it's had its challenges! And thanks in advance to Ros's husband Ian for volunteering to host the quiz, offering a neutral voice of authority.

This is a new venture, please support if you can.

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

Completed Activities

The annual condition assessment survey of the WW2 sites on Thorney Island was completed on 13th May. Many sites are in need of vegetation clearance which will be undertaken later in the year.

Future Activities

Rachel Guy the Nature Warden at Kingley Vale has located a manhole subsequently identified as the entrance to the missing Auxiliary Unit Hideout. The structure appears to be very substantial and in excellent condition. We are in discussions regarding a small excavation later in the year.

Seeley Copse

As you will have seen from the call for volunteers, we are planning an excavation at Seeley Copse on the Goodwood Estate from 24 August until 8 September. Volunteers have been notified of the schedule, there was some issues with emails going to spam/junk folders. If you were expecting to have heard - but haven't, please check your junk/spam folders. A number of trenches will be positioned across features identified in the Magnetometry survey.

Stansted House

We have permission to make a Resistivity Survey of the Secret Garden at Stansted House this activity fell foul of the heat-wave with the ground deemed too hard to give any meaningful Res. results. I wonder what the parch-marks are currently revealing, if anything?

Coastal Monitoring

We are working on plans for Coastal Monitoring activities later in the year.



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

Apologies for anyone at the May Talk, I had mentioned we would announce the winner of our logo competition. Thank you for all the entries, the committee voted, and I am please to announce that **David Cross**'s entry was declared the winner. As we said when we set up the competition, entries would unlikely be the finished article. The committee will now take David's design into consideration and develop a new logo in due course.

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>

I found this talk online from James Sainsbury of Worthing Museum, a really interesting talk specifically on John Pull who excavated extensively at Cissbury. The talks is entitled "John Pull and Worthing's Stone Age Revolution with Mr. James Sainsbury"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIPniOTmZpw>

Mark Seaman passed me this...careful it could be addictive! Anthropeum
Where in the world, and when, does this human artifact belong? Each day, ten objects.
Guess where and when each was made. Then see how you ranked against everyone else who played today.

<https://anthropeum.com/>



Details of a CBA SE Conference in October "A Celebration of the Life, Work and Legacies of Ivan Margary (1896-1976) The Council for British Archaeology South East (CBA SE) October Conference." Can be found here;

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/events/ivan-margary-1896-1976>

Details of the SHARE (Saving Halberton's Ancient Roman Environment) project including the amazing mosaics can be found here;

<https://www.bajr.org/archaeological-dig-reveals-full-extent-of-roman-villa-with-intricate-mosaic-and-bath-house>

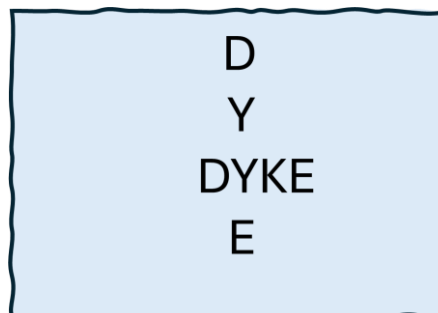
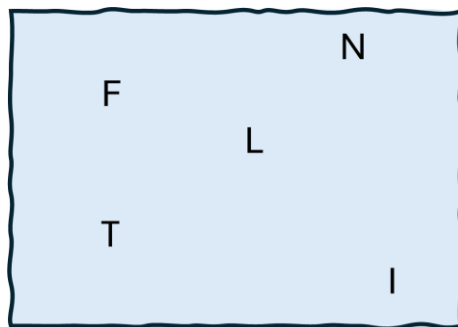
Interesting article on child burial practices in the Bronze Age from Cotswold Archaeology;

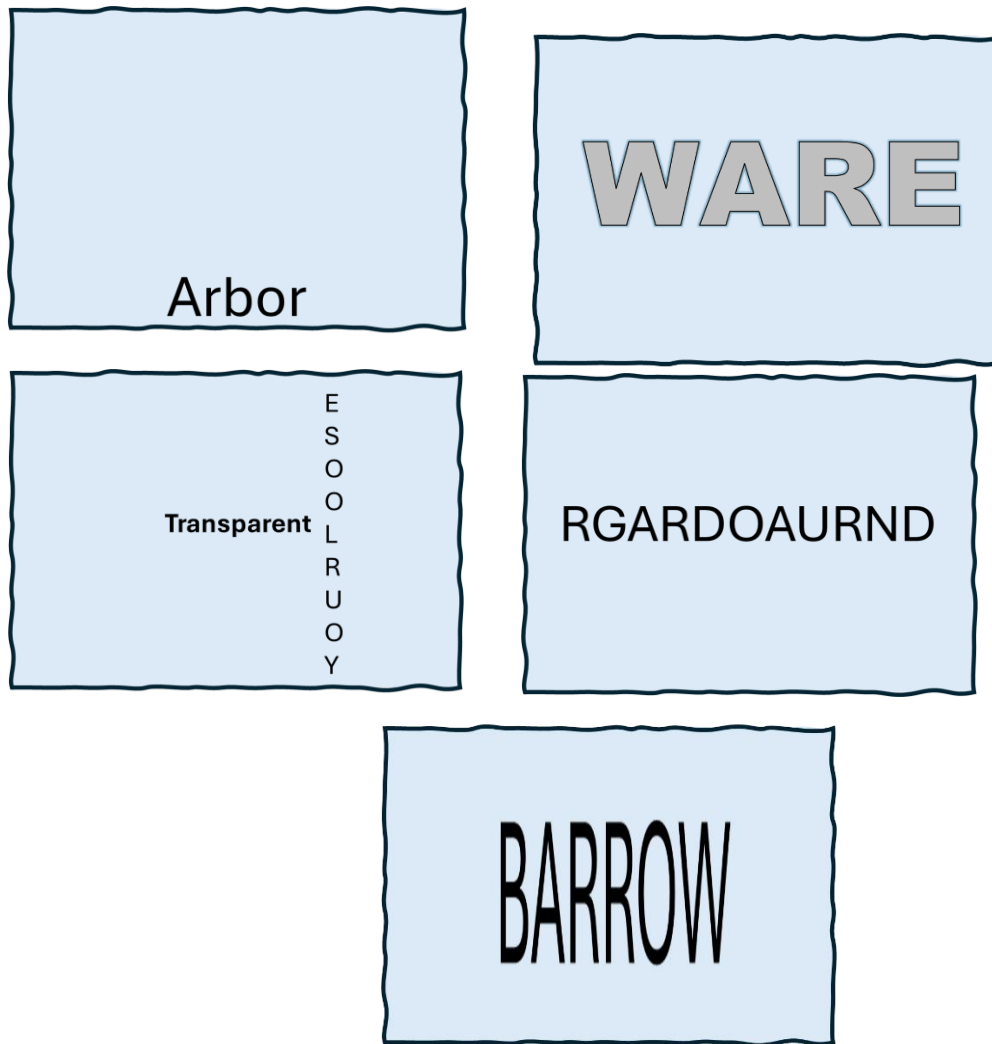
<https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/child-burial-bronze-age>

***New Feature ***

Many of you will be familiar with these 'rebus' style grammatical puzzles, they appear to now feature in a social media site and keep popping up. I was inspired (not very) to create some of my own along an archaeological theme. To avoid any potential copyright infringement, I shall call mine "DigBats" (I'm not sure that would stand up in court).

DiGBats





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, but they're easy aren't they?

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

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Mark Seaman

chairman@cdas.info