



CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS ARCHEOLEGOL CAERDYDD

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Aug 2023/Sep 2023 Issue

THE CAS TRIPS 2023

A photographic presentation, courtesy of the photographers; Anna Olshansky, Kim Iannucci, David Bassett, Chris Jones-Jenkins & Paul Jones.

Ewenny Priory and Fortifications May 25th

Our first eagerly awaited visit of the season covered the priory and fortifications accompanied by our guide, Bill Zajac, CADW Legislation and Policy Officer.



Outbuilding at Ewenny

Founded in 1141 by Maurice de Londres as an offshoot of Gloucester's Benedictine abbey, Ewenny Priory's austere church, presbytery and transepts are the finest surviving examples of Norman Romanesque architecture in this part of Wales. Also notable are the settlement's uncharacteristically robust defences, consisting of impressive walls and gates. Both were in our visit courtesy of Mr Jeremy Picton-Turberville.



Inside the Nave of the Priory



The Impressive Vaulting



Ewenny Priory was covered in more detail in the Aug/Sept 2022 issue of our Newsletter.

FEATURES

Cadoxton Court Dovecote June 8th

With the kind permission of the owner, Mr Dennis Clarke, CAS next visited Cadoxton Court Dovecot. The Dovecote, like the dovecotes visited by the Society last summer at Llantwit Major and Monknash, dates from the 13th century, but is the largest of the remaining medieval dovecotes in the Vale of Glamorgan and a Grade I listed building.



The Impressive Structure

Little known, as it stands within the grounds of a private residence. The dovecote supported a medieval farmstead, based on the site of a manor house which was demolished in the 18th century, and replaced in the 19th by the present Cadoxton Court. The dovecote has been subject to later restoration. The dovecote is circular in design, built in stone, and stands 8 metres high and the walls are over a metre thick. The structure originally housed 700 nesting boxes, giving capacity for 1,400 pigeons.



On The Tour



Inside the Dovecot

Lydney Roman Temple June 10th



The Group at the Lydney Temple Site

A Saturday day visit by CAS to Lydney first met at the Aylburton Methodist Hall for tea and biscuits, followed by a lecture on the history and excavation of the Roman Temple site at Lydney from our guide for the day, Chris Sullivan. He is the author of the recent account of the site published in the Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Lunch followed at the Cross Inn opposite. In the afternoon Chris lead a guided visit to the site of the Roman Temple within the private grounds of Lydney Park, courtesy of the owner Rupert Bathurst, the fourth Viscount Bledisloe.



Village cross at Aylburton



Lydney Roman Temple was covered in more detail in the June/July 2021 issue of our Newsletter.

FEATURES

White Rock Copperworks June 22nd



An Unknown Arched Structure

White Rock was the third oldest of the Swansea copperworks, established in 1737. The works closed in 1924 and the site was almost completely cleared in the 1960s. Nonetheless, it is the only early eighteenth century copperworks site in Swansea to retain substantial, and buried, remains.



The Quay on the River



The Wall alongside the Original Canal

Designated as the White Rock Industrial Archaeology park in the 1980s, the remains include a cut-and-cover canal tunnel 1783-85, the remnants of the much-altered 'Great Workhouse' of 1736 and a re-excavated seventeenth century river dock. The guide for the evening was by John Astley a member of the Friends of White Rock.



The Canal Tunnel Entrances

FEATURES

Dinas Powys Hillfort July 6th



An impressive Vallum of the Hillfort

Following our final talk of the season by Dr Andy Seaman on Hillforts and Hilltop Settlement in Late Antique Western Britain, Andy kindly agreed to be our guide to this important and still vital case study monument, where he has himself excavated.



The Group Inside the Hillfort

FEATURES

CAS Annual Buffet

After the Tour to Dinas Powys Hillfort our Members drove to The Beech Tree in Old Port Road, Wenvoe to be treated to the annual CAS buffet.



Trelai Park Cardiff Excavations

The excavations at Trelai Park, Ely, started last year, first discovered a roundhouse, thought to be the earliest house found in Cardiff.



Committee member Claire Capelin at the Dig

Caerau and Ely Rediscovering (CAER) Heritage Project co-director Dr Oliver Davis on the site, is hoping the structure would provide a missing

link between the late Iron Age and early Roman period, showing what happened to people once they had moved on from the hillfort, which can be found half-a-mile way at Careau Hillfort to the already excavated Ely Roman Villa, uncovered around a century ago.

Archaeologists are now excavating the "remarkably well-preserved" floor, which has remained for around 3,500 years, beneath what is now playing fields.

Accompanied by the discovery of a clay pot, the site was confirmed to be much older than first believed, and was most likely built in the Bronze Age around 1500 BC.



Sian Davies, a CAS Member, about to start on a post-hole.

Olly considers this excavation to be a very rare opportunity for the archaeologists involved and is hopeful the excavations will give further clues and insights into the origins of the Welsh capital.

The latest dig is being run by CAER, Cardiff University and Action in Caerau and Ely (Ace), and involves 100 volunteers and 200 pupils from nearby schools.

FEATURES

Among those taking part is father-of-five Scott Bees, a CAS member and a postman turned ancient history student who decided to pursue a degree after joining a dig last year.



Student Scott excavating a post-hole

Work finished at the site on July 7th, and an open day presenting finds to the Community took place on 26th June.

It is hoped that all the finds from the excavation will also be shown at an exhibition at the CAER Heritage Centre in December.

The Digging For Britain team have also been out to see them and hopefully the dig will feature in the new series.

We hope to get Olly to present a talk on the excavation in our next programme.



Round house post holes



FEATURES

Highlights from the Magazines

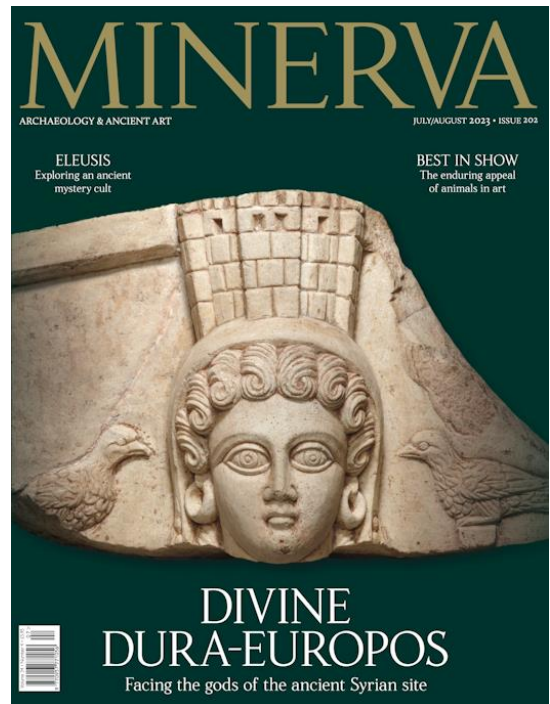
Current World Archaeology Aug 2023-Sep 2023



- Unique Medieval Christian Art in Sudan
- Great Zimbabwe's Water System
- Liman Tepe - A bridge between worlds
- La Tène - A place of memory
- Indiana Jones and the nature of archaeology
- St George's Hill, Damoulianata, Kefalonia
- Sicily - the island's mythological landscapes
- China's Hidden Century - A new exhibition at the British Museum on cultural change in China's history
- Tracing the origins of the Benin Bronzes

Object lesson - Gold bracteate

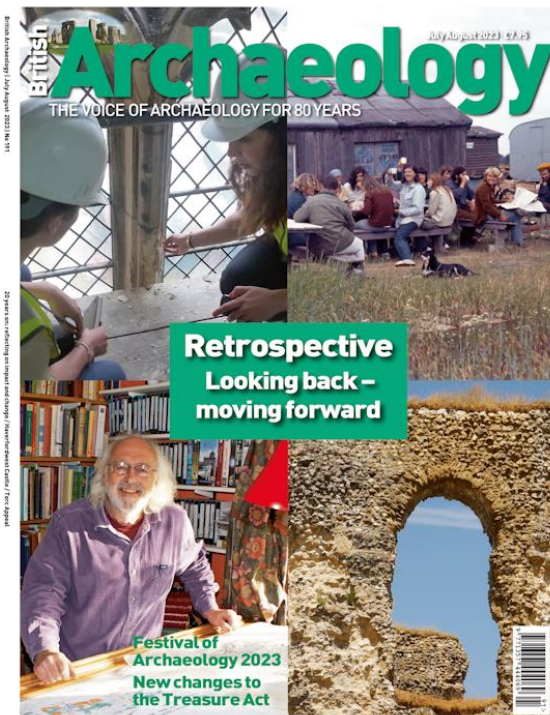
Minerva - Archaeology & Art Jul-Aug 2023



Gonbad-E-Qabus 1934

- Eleusinian Mysteries - European Capital of Culture
- The Gods of Dura-Europos - Syrian Protector Gods
- Secrets of Thier Crafts - Art Manuals
- Visions of Mary Magdalene
- Making a Splash - Cultural History of Swimming
- All Creatures Great & Small - Animal Art
- The Antiquarian - Thomas Young (1773-1829)

British Archaeology Jul-Aug 2023



Bling King's Last Battle - The Anglo-Saxon Grave at Prittlewell

Archaeology - The Blair Years

Sunday Evenings won't be the same without Time Team

A Life in Archaeology - Michael Aston (1946-2013)

Historic Sites can be Dangerous

The meaning of Mucking

Saving Westminster

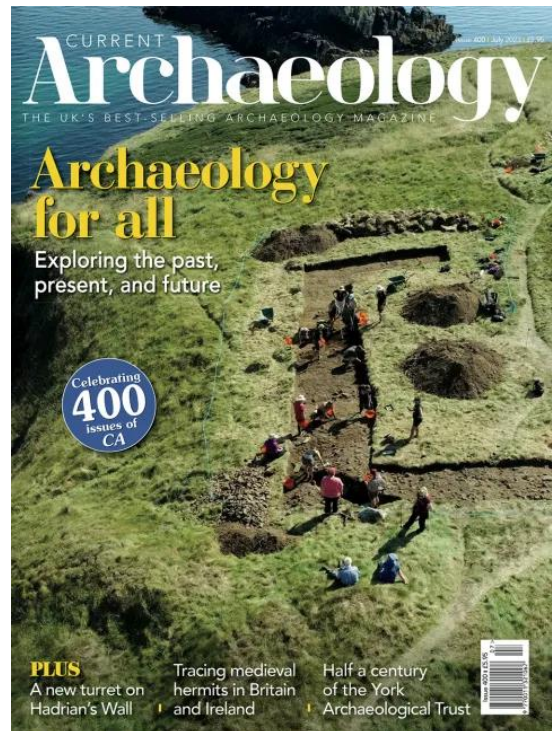
What Now for Reading Abbey

Shame about the Weather on Machrie Moor

Haverfordwest Castle & the County Archives

Festival of Archaeology

Current Archaeology July 2023



Surprises from the Roman Frontier - Excavating Hadrian's Wall in Urban Tyneside

Seeking Seclusion - Medieval Hermitages in Britain & Ireland

Excavations & Attractions - Half a Century with York Archaeological Trust

Deep Impact - Can Social Value save Archaeology from Extinction?

Sifting through the Soil - Surveying the Future of DNA

Frontier Fortlet Found - Carleith, West Dunbartonshire

Return of the Gods Exhibition - World Museum, Liverpool

Odd Socs - The Association for Roman Archaeology

FEATURES

Current Archaeology August 2023



Lost Orders - Time Team & the Knights Hospitaller of Halston Hall

One & All - Discovering the Distinctiveness of Cornish Buildings

Gateway to Britannia - Reimagining Richborough Roman Fort

Fortress Londinium - Tracing London's Roman Walls

The Bare Bones - Presenting a very Regional Neolithic

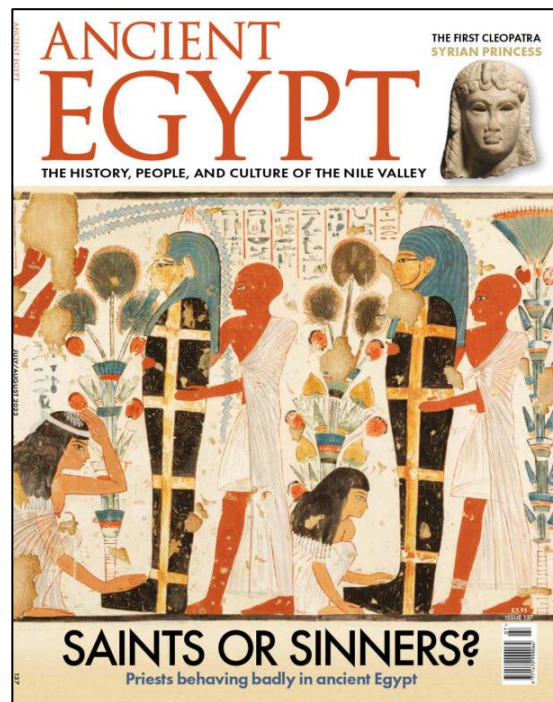
New Calculations to help Restore & Conserve Historic Masonry

Archaeology in Alderney - Excavating the Biggest Iron Age & Gallo-Roman Site in the Channel Islands

Museum - The Hunterian Museum, London

Odd Socs - The Stereoscopic Society

Ancient Egypt Jul-Aug 2023



Cleopatra I, the Syrian

The Thirteenth Dynasty - Vizier Ankh

Saints or Sinners - Scandals among the Servants of the God

Tell El-Farkha - An Exceptional Predynastic Site in the Nile Delta

The Book of the Heavenly Cow

The Discovery of the Serapeum of Saqqara

Unexpected Egypt

The Rock-cut Tombs of El-Hawawish

Object Highlight - Ivory Label of King Den

Quiz

1. Phoenician City state destroyed by Rome in 146 BC
2. British Archaeologist played by Ken Stott in the film 'The Dig'
3. English City known to the Romans as Isca Dumnoniorum
4. High Ranking Official of the former Chinese Empire
5. Forest land cleared and put to arable use
6. Type of Pottery made near Cologne in the 8th and 9th Centuries
7. Country containing the Asprochaliko Rock Shelter site
8. The Main Hill of Rome
9. Glossy Red Roman Pottery
10. Egyptian God of the Desert and Thunderstones

Future Events

Saturday Events

Brecon Museum and Town Brecknock Society & Friends of Brecon Museum

A day visit to the town of Brecon, focusing on a guided visit to the Museum, recently re-opened after a multi million pound programme of refurbishment. We will remain in the town visiting other sites of interest with the Society hosts, including the Cathedral which is currently seeking funding for future works.

Late September (TBC) Fonmon Excavations Dr Andy Seaman

A day visit to the excavations in the grounds of Fonmon Castle guided by Andy Seaman, director of the excavation. The precise details of the visit will be confirmed when the excavation dates have been finalised.

Details of both these events will be sent out to Members shortly.

Links to Websites

Recorded Previous Lectures:



Who hid the Cheapside Hoard? A Goldsmiths' Row mystery resolved

by Dr Rosemary Weinstein FSA

A spectacular find of early 17th century jewellery was unearthed in the summer of 1912 during the destruction of the whole block of buildings on the western corner of Cheapside and Friday Street, just east of St Pauls Cathedral. The discovery under a cellar floor was the chance find of what became known as the 'Cheapside Hoard'. It turned out to be the most important cache of Elizabethan and Jacobean jewellery ever recovered from British soil. A few of the later jewels date to the 1630s and it is believed the Hoard was buried at the time of the Civil War. Recent research supports this view.

Why was it hidden so securely under a cellar floor about 16 feet (4.9 metres) below present-day street level? The question is answered by examining leases from the goldsmiths company

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EVENTS & LINKS

archives. These reveal the name of a jeweller working for the court. A royalist, he escaped from London in 1642 to join the Court to Oxford. Declared a delinquent by Parliament, his Cheapside property was sequestered; he was never able to reclaim it...

The Hoard will be going on display at the new London Museum in Smithfield in 2025.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPKiAP4Hs6k&list=PLGOCpw7BaRwVSTUOmU5NkleaiJBZZdWln&index=1>



Archaeological Research in Progress 2023

Archaeological Research in Progress (ARP) conference was a one-day event presenting new research findings and best practice in archaeology covering all periods from across Scotland and beyond.

Organised by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in partnership with Archaeology Scotland, the ARP 2023 conference took place on Saturday 27th May, at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh.

The programme included 12 talks covering exciting new research and best practice in archaeology from across Scotland.

Beyond Walls: New Narratives for Settlement & Land Use on Roman Empire's British Frontier

The "Beyond Walls" project is adopting a multi-scalar, interdisciplinary approach to explore trends and changes in settlement and land use dynamics in the Hadrian's Wall/Antonine Wall frontier zone over the period c.500 BC-AD 500.

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This presentation will share the preliminary results of analyses of the settlement record based on national and regional historic environment records and large-area surveys utilising remote sensing data. New radiocarbon dates from selected sites within the study area will also be presented, alongside preliminary palaeoenvironmental reconstructions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CDsazJdBT8&list=PLomxmmDt-nnIxGxH5ThVQCFw104331nku&index=4>

Bog Standard: a Wetland Settlement at Hyndford Quarry

At Hyndford Quarry, South Lanarkshire, the remarkably well-preserved remains of three closely-set wooden roundhouses were discovered by AOC Archaeology as part of monitoring works. Tentatively dated to the late Iron Age, associated with these structures was a whole host of remarkable finds including two wooden wheels, wooden vessels, shale bracelets and copper alloy objects.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLtBnzI7eIQ&list=PLomxmmDt-nnIxGxH5ThVQCFw104331nku&index=3>

The Bare Bones: Exploring the Early Neolithic Chambered Cairns of the North Channel

The descendants of the early Neolithic pioneers who arrived in the Atlantic-facing areas of south-west Scotland and the north of Ireland in the centuries around 4000 BC built megalithic monuments known as Clyde cairns and court tombs respectively. Producing The Bare Bones (2023) involved modern laser scan survey, innovative drone photography, creative archaeological visualisation, a daring mountain top mission and the re-evaluation of several unpublished excavations - all combining to support outdoor archaeological learning and develop budding osteoarchaeological skills.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW-n1pczagA&list=PLomxmmDt-nnIxGxH5ThVQCFw104331nku&index=1>

St Moluag's Monastery on Lismore - a Rival to St Columba's Monastery on Iona

Community excavation on Lismore has identified an Early Christian monastic site which includes an enclosed cemetery, one oval stone building and evidence for a specialised craft workshop area in which fine pieces of jewellery and other intricately decorated objects were made, antler was worked, leather was embossed and stone was carved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hkB0tgaUcE&list=PLomxmmDt-nnIxGxH5ThVQCFw104331nku&index=4>

Life and Death in Medieval Leith

Ongoing analysis of the human remains recovered from GUARD Archaeology's excavation of South Leith Parish Church is revealing evidence about the life and death of the people of Medieval Leith. Preliminary studies of the assemblage of human remains included radiocarbon dating, parasite analysis, as well as facial reconstruction. A multidisciplinary approach involving osteological analysis, isotope analysis, parasite analysis, pollutant analysis and aDNA analysis of the remains will aim to provide a broader understanding of this Medieval population.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIImEBslwYu0&list=PLomxmmDt-nnIxGxH5ThVQCFw104331nku&index=12>

India Buildings: Medieval Edinburgh Preserved

Post-excavation work is currently underway on the Old Town site between Victoria St and the Cowgate. It revealed a wealth of well-preserved and well-stratified remains, including waterlogged wooden structures, leather and textiles. Significant assemblages of animal bone and pottery were also recovered as well as many

small finds of note. Dendrochronology and other dating means combined with analysis of the archaeological, artefactual and environmental remains have the potential to bring Edinburgh's burghal beginnings and development into sharp focus.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEaNkQoSg_0&list=PLomxmmDt-nnIxGxH5ThVQCFw104331nku&index=13

Petardy Historic Landscape Project: a Student-led Study

Petardy Historic Landscape Project (PHLP) is a multi-year, student-led research project in the East-Neuk of Fife. Investigation of the research area, which provides material from the Neolithic to the Modern, takes the form of record-based research, field walking, geophysical survey, and excavation. A central focus of the project is enabling access to archaeology for students and community members of all backgrounds, as well as leading tours of the research area for groups that otherwise have limited exposure to archaeology.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqM00P34bTY&list=PLomxmmDt-nnIxGxH5ThVQCFw104331nku&index=9>



Cambrian Archaeological Association
Cymdeithas Hynafiaethau Cymru

Darganfod 2023:

Beneath the Vale: pollen evidence near Caerau causewayed enclosure and its implications for the beginning of the Neolithic in south Wales

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

A hoard from Llanddeusant Community, Carmarthenshire, and its place in Late Bronze Age south Wales

EVENTS & LINKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR9fNUNI0mg>

Living on the Brink of Coasts and Calamity - Understanding the Promontory Forts of Pembrokeshire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqah3HdtPxU>

Continuity and Change at Tre'r Ceiri Hillfort

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU4thNgWuOg>

Landscape of Myth and Memory: the archaeology of Dinas Dinlle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVPiOA6UTWc>

Fonmon Castle Landscape Project: results from the first two years of survey and excavation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5q2ZbQIRIq0>

Historic Shipwrecks and the Impacts of Climate Change

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0oOxfkhoVA>

A Welsh Landscape through Time: Excavations at Parc Cybi, Holy Island, Anglesey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2Ly2IHIGkQ>

Answers to Quiz

1. Carthage 2. Charles Phillips 3. Exeter 4. Mandarin 5. Assart 6. Badorf Ware 7. Greece 8. Capitol 9. Samian Ware 10 Seth