

B & DAS newsletter

August 2015

Dear Members,

In April Derek Gibson of the Bridgwater Civic Trust gave us an amusing historical verbal tour of the Town. He has lived here for many years and has always had an interest in local history, so he could talk for an hour without any notes.

Woodspring Priory is an Augustinian priory in the remote area north of Worle. After the dissolution it became a farmhouse and later a barn before it was rescued by the National Trust. It is now leased to the Landmark Trust who rent it out as holiday accommodation. We went along on their Open Day on May 16th. A lot of the ruined priory is untouched, and Vince Russett was on hand to give us a detailed tour.

We met Jerry Sampson at Wells Cathedral on June 20th for a critical look at the fabric of the building. It was a delight to have a guide who loves the Cathedral and has worked in and around it for many years. We first looked at the outside to learn about its evolution and the building techniques used, and then moved inside to see other aspects of the construction. We learnt some unpleasant truths - the slender column which is badly overloaded, and the unusual scissor brace of the tower which looks so massive, but has little shear-strength.



Chris Sidaway expounding on Enmore Church

The Annual Dinner on July 16th was held at the Enmore Inn, where Emma, the manager,

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made us most welcome. We had a splendid meal in a convivial atmosphere. Before the meal we visited Enmore Church with Chris Sidaway. The village centre proved to be an idyllic spot on a warm evening.

As our contribution to the CBA Festival of Archaeology, David Baker led a walk around the town in July.

I was very gratified at the response to the Dinner notice, as it was a test of our new e-mail policy. I had wondered if everyone would be prepared to download the application form, but this was evidently not a problem. Thank you for cooperating in this - it will save the Society a considerable amount of money in printing and postage costs. If you are not happy with the arrangement or would like hard copies of the application forms, do get in touch.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, September 17th. Coach excursion to Cirencester & Chedwoth Roman Villa

8.30 a.m. at Bridgwater Bus Station.

We will go by coach to Cirencester, which is a small market town but, surprisingly, in Roman times it was the second largest town in Britain after London. We will visit the beautiful Corinium Museum and there will be an opportunity to take a guided tour around the town. There are some nice shops and lots of places to eat.

After lunch we will be taken to Chedwoth Villa which is in the care of the National Trust. Here we will also be given a guided tour.

We should be back in Bridgwater by 6.30 p.m.

Booking essential. Booking form attached.

Thursday, October 15th

7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

The Saxon burial ground at Hinkley Point.

Richard Young, Cotswold Archaeology

After extensive archaeological investigations, work started on the site of the C-Station. Fortunately one of the bulldozer drivers working on the western extremities of the site realised that he was digging up bones. Cotswold Archaeology returned to excavate this area and are going to tell us about it.

Thursday, November 19th(???)

7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

Vince Russett retires as Archaeologist with North Somerset Council and I hope that he will give us a farewell talk. He has yet to be pinned down!

Thursday, December 17th.

Christmas meeting at Wembdon Community Centre

Bob Croft will be our guest.