

The Friends of the Colchester Archaeological Trust

News

Spring 2023



Archaeological Achievement Awards see p4

Roman Circus Centre

Opening hours until Easter



Tuesday to Friday, 11am-3pm
Guided tours at 12 noon & 2pm
Closed Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays

Centre charges: £3 entrance - or £6 to include a short tour of the Centre, the foundations & the starting gates.

Free entry for Friends of CAT,
under 11's, Young Archaeologists & members of
the Association for Roman Archaeology.

For more information see the Roman Circus Visitor Centre website:
[**www.romancircus.co.uk**](http://www.romancircus.co.uk)

Sue and the team warmly welcome you to the Roman Circus Café



Opening hours until Easter

Tuesday - Friday 11am - 3pm

We serve a wide range of light lunches, including

- Homemade Soup and freshly-baked rolls.
- Homemade Cakes and Scones.
- A good selection of Teas and Coffees

Afternoon Teas available Wednesday & Friday
(to book, call Sue on 07935 604640. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**)

For Friends of the Colchester Archaeological Trust
membership queries please contact the Membership
Secretary Howard Brooks by email: [**hb@catuk.org**](mailto:hb@catuk.org) or
on **07415 952 891**

AQUILA @ THE ROMAN CIRCUS VISITOR CENTRE,
ROMAN CIRCUS WALK, COLCHESTER, CO2 7GZ.



LEARN TO PLAY AQUILA WITH ALEX JONES

Saturdays in 2023 - 11am - 2pm
15th April, 13th May, 10th June
8th July, 12th August & 9th September

A ROMAN STYLE BOARDGAME OF STRATEGY AND SKILL



FREE TO PLAY
FOR PLAYERS 8 YEARS AND OLDER

ALL CHILDREN UNDER 11 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT

Archaeological Achievement Awards

In November 2022, CAT Staff Vikki Sands, Tabitha Gulliver-Lawrence and Bronagh Quinn travelled to Dublin for the Council for British Archaeology's Archaeological Achievement Awards, with the former two being nominated for the Early Career Archaeologist award. Congratulations to Vikki on her award - here is her report on the visit to Dublin.

We were lucky to enough to be given a curator-led tour of National Museum of Ireland's 'Kingship and Sacrifice' exhibition in the day prior to the awards ceremony in the evening. For those of you that don't know, this unique exhibition displays a collection of Iron Age bog bodies that have been extremely well-preserved! As archaeologists, this was incredibly exciting for all three of us.

The evening activities were equally exciting, as the awards ceremony was held at Dublin Castle which is incredibly grand! I have never seen so many archaeologists suited and booted! Not an ounce of mud in site. The food was also wonderful.

The cherry on top of the evening was winning the Early Career Archaeologist award. That was a complete surprise, and I was completely gobsmacked. All I can say is I really enjoy my role at CAT supervising the volunteer and work experience team, organising the archiving, planning events, and manning the social media, and it was amazing to be recognised for my contribution to the sector. I will do my best to continue to work hard and make everybody proud!



Vikki, Tabitha and Bronagh

We were so proud to represent Colchester Archaeological Trust and rub shoulders with some amazing professionals. Also, I think the fact that two out of the six shortlisted candidates for the award were from the Trust highlights what quality archaeologists we have working for our company.

Hopefully we can complete another 27-hour whirlwind visit to Dublin sometime soon!

Vikki Sands
Senior Post Excavation Assistant

THE FRIENDS OF
THE COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

FINDS Q & A

Drop-in sessions 12-12.30 pm

**11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July,
8 August, & 12 September 2023.**

Come for a lunchtime chat with
one of the Trust's expert
archaeologists about some of our
discoveries, you never know what
you will find out!

*Meet in the Garden Marquee
promptly at 12 noon*

Roman Circus Visitor Centre, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester CO2 7GZ

Forthcoming events at Roman Circus Visitor Centre

Wed. 1 st March	£5	19:30	Under the boards talk by Laura Pooley *
Thurs. 9 th March	£5	19:30 - 21:00	<i>Londinium</i> Talk by Richard Bale *
Wed. 15 March	£5	19:30 - 21:00	<i>Cleopatra and Boadicea</i> Talk by Max Fox
Tues. 11 th April	Free	12:00 - 12:30	Finds Q & A session in Marquee
Thurs. 13 th April	£5	19:30 - 21:00	<i>Hadrian's Wall</i> Talk by Richard Bale *
Sat. 15 th April	Free	10:00 - 16:00	Roman Day with Colchester Roman Society
Sat. 15 th April	Free	11:00 - 14:00	Aquila - Roman board game with Alex Jones
Wed. 19 th April	£5		The Redevelopment of Castle Museum by Tom Hodgson *
(This is an online event)			
Tues. 9 th May	Free	12:00 - 12:30	Finds Q & A session in Marquee
Sat. 13 th May	Free	11:00 - 14:00	Aquila - Roman board game with Alex Jones
Sat. 10 th June	Free	11:00 - 14:00	Aquila - Roman board game with Alex Jones
Tues. 13 th June	Free	12:00 - 12:30	Finds Q & A session in Marquee
Sat. 8 th July	Free	11:00 - 14:00	Aquila - Roman board game with Alex Jones
Tues. 11 th July	Free	12:00 - 12:30	Finds Q & A session in Marquee

*For details of charged talks visit [www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/RomanColchester)
RomanColchester or call Samantha on 01206 501785 Option 3.
Tickets are available from the Roman Circus Centre or
[eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Saturday 22 nd July	Free	10:00 - 16:00	Archaeology Day in gardens free entry
Tuesday 8 th August	Free	12:00 - 12:30	Finds Q & A session in Marquee
Saturday 12 th August	Free	11:00 - 14:00	Aquila - Roman board game with Alex Jones
Saturday 9 th Sept.	Free	11:00 - 14:00	Aquila - Roman board game with Alex Jones
Saturday 9 th Sept.	Free	10:00 - 16:00	Heritage Open Days
Sunday 10 th Sept.	Free	10:00 - 16:00	Heritage Open Days
Tuesday 12 th Sept.	Free	12:00 - 12:30	Finds Q & A session in Marquee
Friday 29 th Sept.	Free	10:00 - 16:00	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Saturday 30 th Sept.	Free	10:00 - 16:00	Roman Day with Colchester Roman Society
Saturday 7 th October	£50	10:00 - 16:00	Latin Day II with George Sharpley, The Latin Quarter *
Wednes. 25 th October	Free	11:00 - 14:00	Aquila - Roman board game with Alex Jones

CAT Winter fieldwork update

Adam Wightman, Trust Fieldwork Manager

Things have been a little quieter at CAT of late, but we're back excavating at the former bus depot on Queen Street so the next couple of months are likely to be very interesting. So far we have uncovered the remains of the Theatre Royal, which stood on the site between 1812 and 1918, medieval and post-medieval pits and the remains of the east-west orientated Roman street which ran along the inside of the town wall. The theatre was destroyed by fire in September 1918 and very few artefactual remains associated with the theatre survived. As well as brick foundations which we can match with structural elements of the building, we also have a large amount of fire-damaged debris from the theatre which appears to have been used to backfill the under-stage 'pit'. Finds from the pit include sheet music, the remains of a book or pamphlet with a page on 'marches and two-steps', the crystal trimmings from a chandelier, a tuning peg from a



Excavations at the former bus depot

string instrument and possibly part of the stage curtain itself! It's very early days at the site so I'm sure we'll have lots of other interesting bits to report on in the near future. We will also be organising open days on the site, probably in early April so we can get kids along while they are on their Easter holidays. It will be much easier to

host open days at this site than it was at the Essex County Hospital (it is not a live demolition site), so I expect the client will be happy for us to arrange a special viewing for the Friends some time near to the public open days.

Away from Colchester, CAT's fieldwork team spent the Autumn working on two quarry sites in Birch and Little Waltham. At Birch Quarry we found the remains of a Roman enclosure with a small cluster of Roman burials. At Little Waltham we uncovered evidence of an Iron Age roundhouse as well as a substantial number of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman pits and ditches. Both projects were undertaken in advance of quarry expansion programmes and represent the most recent phases of work at sites with

which CAT has had a long association. More recently we were involved in the excavation of a 16th-century lime kiln and tile kiln at, would you believe it..... Tilekiln Green (which is in Great Hallingbury near Stansted Airport). The lime kiln was particularly impressive as it was constructed from mortared flint and peg-tile



The lime Kiln at Tilekiln Green

and had been built to a very high standard. It is likely that the kilns provided materials for Great Hallingbury Manor located 500m to the south-east of the site.

Richard Bale talks about
HADRIAN'S WALL



THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2023
7.30 - 9 PM

£5 tickets available on the door or via
<http://colchesterarctrust.eventbrite.com>

ROMAN CIRCUS VISITOR CENTRE
ROMAN CIRCUS WALK, COLCHESTER CO2 7GZ

Keep in touch with the Trust online @

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Website: <https://www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/108158239205830>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/colch_archaeological_trust/

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/colchester-archaeological-trust/

Online Report Library: cat.essex.ac.uk

... or find them all at one place at:

<https://linktr.ee/colchesterarchaeologicaltrust>

Roman Circus Visitor Centre

Website: www.romancircus.co.uk

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/RomanColchester

Our own site <http://focat.org.uk> is unfortunately rather out-of-date because we do not have a Webmaster at present.

Other sites you may be interested in are:

- **Colchester Archaeological Group:** www.caguk.net
- **Colchester & Ipswich Museums:** <https://cimuseums.org.uk>
- **Colchester Visitor Information Centre:** www.visitcolchester.com/
- **Camulos – Jess Jephcott's history of the town:** www.camulos.com

Roman Circus Visitor Centre Round up

Over the quieter winter months our wonderful Visitor Centre volunteers have been very busy:

- The Roman Town Model is well on the way to completion (see p11)
- The Centre walls are being decorated to enhance the displays
- Murals are being painted to give the place a more Roman vibe

and, as a total surprise, a replica Roman army costume has been donated for display.

Thank you to all the 'Friends' supporting our fund-raising talks, we couldn't buy the paint without you!

Do pop in to have a look at all the developments, see you soon.

Samantha Rowley, Education & Outreach Manager
Roman Circus Visitor Centre



The Town Plan at the Roman Circus Visitor Centre

May 2023 Friends Visit

Our first trip for 2023 is on Saturday 20th May to Kent. In the morning we will visit the excavations of the Roman Bath House at St Mary Cray (<http://www.odas.org.uk/roman-bath-house/>) led by the excellent guide who showed us around Scadbury in 2019. We will stop for lunch at Orpington before an afternoon visit to Lullingstone Roman Villa (<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lullingstone-roman-villa/>).

Our coach will leave from outside Greyfriars Hotel at 9am and arrive back at around 6pm. The cost of the trip is £25 and to book please complete the slip below and send it with a cheque made payable to The Friends of the Colchester Archaeological Trust to: Howard Brooks, FoCAT Membership Secretary, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Way, Colchester, CO2 7GZ. Howard's email address is hb@catuk.org. Local people may drop off slips and cash at Howard's desk at Roman Circus House. Please note that the cost of the trip does NOT include entry to Lullingstone as some of us may be English Heritage members. The entry fees (with a 15% group discount) are £6.55 for over 65s, £7.30 for adults and £4.25 for under 18s.

Visit to Roman Bath House & Roman Villa on Saturday 20th May 2023.
Please reserve place(s) @ £25 each for the visit.

Name(s)

Address

Tel:

email:

Please make your cheque payable to The Friends of the Colchester Archaeological Trust and post to Howard Brooks, FoCAT Membership Secretary, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Way, Colchester, CO2 7GZ