Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 8/2021

Registered Charity No 510831

From the Chair

It is a brief Chair's ramble this month. We had a successful walk over to Hilbre in August braving the weather, and an enlightening lecture by Rob on the past excavations and expectations for this year's dig at Norton Priority. Anyone wishing to attend the Norton Priory field trip needs to book using the details contained in this newsletter so that Rob knows what numbers to cater for.

At the August Zoom lecture the attending membership took a vote as to whether we should hold the AGM at the Quaker Meeting House or virtually. There is still a reluctance to come into Liverpool in the evening so the decision has been made to defer attending the QMH until the New Year. **Please do not come to the previously announced Quaker Meeting House meetings as these will now be via Zoom.**

There are places available on Council as members and officers stand down. Liz Stewart is standing down as Secretary and Heather Beeton had put her name forward to take on the role. Heather is Portable Antiquities Service Liaison Officer at National Museums Liverpool. The post is still open for other nominations should there be a scramble to be Secretary.

Chris Wood and David Scott are standing down as Council members after many years service. Liz will take up one of the places on Council but there is at least one place available for any member who would like to join. We anticipate continuing Council meetings via Zoom even when we return back to 'normality' so there is no requirement to come into Liverpool to attend. Meetings take approximately an hour and they are held quarterly.

Hope to see as many as possible at the forthcoming AGM.

Roy Forshaw

Autumn 2021 meetings

The AGM and lecture on 16th September can be accessed via Zoom from 7.15 p.m.

For those meetings held 'virtually' via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand. There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Talks will last 40 mins starting at 7.30. You will be able to log on from 7.15.
2. Please set your microphone to mute whilst the speaker is talking. This is to ensure that we get the best audio quality so that everyone can hear.
3. Just as we would in a physical meeting, please save any questions until the end of the session.
4. It's possible to post text comments during Zoom meetings, but we found this quite distracting, so please keep this to a minimum.

Merseyside Archaeological Society

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Merseyside Archaeological Society publishes three newsletters each year. Contributions are invited on all aspects of archaeology in Merseyside. If you wish to contribute information please contact the Newsletter Editor. Please note that contributions may have to be edited.

Disclaimer: *Any views or opinions expressed by contributors to this Newsletter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Merseyside Archaeological Society.*

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5. If you'd rather not appear by video that can be turned off and replaced with a photo.

6. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to members in the week prior to the meeting, so please make sure that our membership sec, Vanessa Oakden, has your current email address.

7. There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M .

Autumn Meetings 2021.

2021 Programme:

Date	Speaker/ Leader	Title	Venue
16 September	Vanessa Oakden	AGM. 'The Dock House Dig - Piermaster's Green Community Archaeology Project'	Zoom
25 September	Rob Philpott	Site visit. See below	Norton Priory
21 Octobeer		Lecture tbc	Zoom
18 November	Gina Muskett	Mosaics in the County Sessions House, Liverpool	Zoom
16 December	Various	Christmas Social and Quiz	Zoom

Norton Priory Trip on Saturday 25th September at 2 p.m.

MAS has a long-standing association with Norton Priory. In the 1970s many of the Society's first members participated in training excavations and voluntary work at the site. There are still fond memories of the tile-making kiln excavation and its subsequent reconstruction. It is a great achievement that this close connection still prevails. Rob gave a preview of the site visit and recent archaeological work conducted by the University of Liverpool at the August on-line Zoom meeting. Society members are invited to visit the Priory to learn more and to see what discoveries have been made in the 2021 excavation. Pre-booking is recommended by contacting Rob Philpott at rob.philpott@hotmail.co.uk when you receive this Newsletter.

Lifts for MAS field trip to Norton Priory. If you need (or can offer) a lift to get to Norton Priory on Saturday 25th September, please contact Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk before 10pm on THURSDAY 23rd September. I can pick people up from the Liverpool South Parkway station car park. I shall be leaving there about 12.00 noon so that we get to Norton Priory about 12.30 and have 1.5 hours to visit the museum and/or the cafe before we gather for the guided tour of the excavations. We can wear masks in the car, like we would on public transport.

Hilbre Island Visit on 17th August

15 gallant and enthusiastic members attended the walk over to Hilbre. Whilst walking over, the weather was bracing with light rain in our faces supplemented by high winds. All plans of showing the illustrations I had prepared were dashed by the winds but with a lot of gesturing and shouting I think I got the message across. We got around a good part of the island but there has been a request for a themed visit next year concentrating on specific periods of history, so watch this space.

During the visit whilst looking at the buildings we noted that some of the properties had had forced entry. This was reported to Wirral Borough Council and the issues were addressed the following day when

it was discovered that there had been some illegal occupation and vandalism in the buildings.

Thanks to everyone who braved the elements and contributed to an enjoyable day. Big thanks also to Sue Stallibrass who spent a lot of the time at the back of the group ensuring everyone got there and back safely.

Roy Forshaw

Heritage Open Days

Every year in early September, there are events to celebrate heritage sites. These may be guided walks and talks, buildings open to the public for one-off events, or buildings/sites/museums with extended opening hours. Events vary each year. This year's open days take place between **Friday 10th – Sunday 19th Sept.** Some require booking, some do not. You can search the website by location, type of event or date at:
https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

Here's just a couple of examples:

Wirral History & Heritage Association are organising a series of events (walks, visits, & open days) from Friday 10th – Sunday 19th Sept, but please check each one as some may be cancelled due to Covid. Besides several open-for-the-day buildings, there are lots of activities to choose from: visit West Kirby Museum, 'behind the scenes' at Wirral Archives in Birkenhead, New Ferry Butterfly Park, New Brighton Heritage & Information Centre, the traditional apple orchard at Brimstage Hall, or the Bidston Community Archaeology group; go on an industrial heritage walk at Woodside, or Birkenhead Park Heritage walk, Port Sunlight Edible Heritage walking tour (!), Rock Ferry Rock Park, Hoylake, Woodchurch… there's loads! Many activities are one-off events so check the times and dates and any booking details. https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar

The Wirral History and Heritage Association has provided a link to their Heritage Open Days page to enable a pdf. version for download or printing, here: https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar

All Saints Church, Childwall, Liverpool: the church, tower and churchyard will be open on Saturday 18th Sept from 10 – 4 and on Sunday 19th Sept from 2 – 4. This year there are no guided tours but there will be an introductory video to view and then you can explore, with stewards on hand.
https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/all-saints-church-childwall1

On Line Resources

Recorded Talks

Greater Manchester:

- Professor Nigel Linge, University of Salford. Nigel reviews the **industrial archaeology of the mobile phone.**
- Norman Redhead provides a **round-up of archaeological fieldwork and research across Greater Manchester in 2020**.
- Dr Mike Nevell looks at **conservation and community archaeology work in and around the Bridgewater Canal at Worsley** over the last few years.

They can be downloaded FREE from YouTube at https://bit.ly/3z9pkIP .

Podcasts for the following can be found at https://bit.ly/3BjdQ7k

- Digging up **Hulme Barracks and the Peterloo Massacre**
- **Buckton Castle** mysteries
- The **founding of Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit**

Southport's premier museum and cultural centre, the Atkinson, recently hosted a lecture by Dr Clare Downham about **Viking settlement on the Wirral and the Battle of Brunanburh**. The livestream was ticketed to raise funds for the museum, but the lecture is now freely available at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99VrFHzu71E

Some of the talks associated with the **Council for British Archaeology** (CBA)'s annual **Festival of Archaeology** are available either on the CBA website or directly on the relevant organiser website.

See the CBA Festival website at https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/resources (I simply used the keyword 'recording' but there are lots of other resources besides talks)

One talk that some members may be particularly interested in is Harold Mytum's talk on **graveyard memorial stones**
https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/resources/making-stones-speak-some-examples-how-graveyard-monuments-reveal-hidden-stories-1616937333

Matthew Beamish of University of Leicester Archaeological Services talked about **The Archaeology & History of Bradgate Park, Leicestershire,** illustrating the use of **lidar** techniques https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scfAqt89-Pg

The **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales** are pleased to confirm that their recent Festival of Archaeology talk, '**Wales from Above: One Hundred Years of Aerial Photographs of Wales**' by Medwyn Parry is now available to view on our **YouTube channel**.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LkmFy_G4MQ

Other Online Resources

Dig Greater Manchester The blog site now includes:

• pdfs of all 27 of the Greater Manchester Past Revealed booklets, including the latest two published this year (No.26 'Life on Marr' and No.27 'Salford Regeneration') https://bit.ly/3ktSY7F

• a range of archaeology information panels deriving from development schemes and community projects https://bit.ly/3wNNpn1

• all of the GM Archaeology Federation newsletters https://bit.ly/2UnatMc https://youtu.be/scfAqt89-Pg

Early Medieval carved stones are on display in **Neston church** and there is an informative and well-illustrated article about them on Howard Williams' blog (with a link to the Anglo-Saxon corpus of carved stonework)
https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2020/12/19/nestons-early-medieval-stones/

The Viking Age in the North West (mentioned before in newsletter) is a free app which allows you to discover a range of sites in the Wirral that shed light on the history of Viking settlement and integration. These sites range from place-names and archaeological finds to stone sculptures. The app comes with a map to help you locate sites, or you can browse through the alphabetical list. There is a brief description and image for every featured site, as well as references to find out more information. It is hoped to expand the geographical range of the app in future, and feedback via the app is welcome. You can download the app for free from Google Play or the App Store.

Historic England publishes articles on new work by their **specialist teams in Research News**. You can download the entire issue or simply click on individual articles of interest to read online. Previous issues are also available at the same weblink.
https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/research/

An interdisciplinary research team looking into the history of bears and people has created an informative & entertaining animated

presentation of the **16th Century Nantwich fire and the role of bears…** https://boxofficebears.com/

The North Welsh **town of Flint in photos and videos**. YouTube channel DEXTRA VISUAL showcases the animated films commissioned by Flintshire County Council and funded by Heritage Lottery. They cover a range of eras and are both informative and entertaining. https://localhistoryvideos.com/flint/

Cumbria Prehistory Resource Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS) has produced a learning resource to help teachers in the county's schools support the teaching of prehistory, from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, within the History curriculum. The pack was produced with input from archaeological experts and feedback from teachers and learners after a pilot session in a Maryport school. It comprises an introductory slide show; in school activities (covering topics like artefacts, burials, food and the home); on-site activity suggestions (using Cumbrian sites, artefacts and museums); background information and signposts to further information. **The resource pack is free and can be downloaded from the CWAAS's Cumbria Past website.** https://cumbriapast.com/cgi-bin/cwaas/cp_main.pl?action=cp_schools_area

TV Programmes

Live & Online BBC4 at 20:00 (8pm)
Our Coast: Adrian Chiles & Mehreen Baig explore 4 coasts around the **Irish Sea**.
English (Liverpool & Sefton) broadcast Sat 14th August
Welsh (Anglesey/Menai Strait) broadcast Sat 21st August
Northern Ireland (County Down) broadcast Sat 28th August
Scotland to be broadcast presumably 4th September
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000f695

Online. Three programmes tracing the history of archaeological explorations.

Archaeology: A Secret History
NB this website has lots of links to other online BBC archaeology programmes & podcasts
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0109jnw

Online Resources compiled by Sue Stallibrass, with many thanks to Maurice Handley, Roy Forshaw & Joyce Hughes for contributions.

If anyone has information about interesting online resources that they would like to share via this section of the MAS newsletter, **please send them** to Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk

Sue Stallibrass