

## **Chairs Report September 2021**

In 2019 we would never have imagined that many of us would not have met for nearly 18 months. Ironically more members have been able to attend lectures as there is the flexibility of attending from home. There has also been the advantage that we have booked speakers from afar covering research throughout the country. The downside is that unfortunately a small number of the membership are unable to attend due lack of Zoom access and to partly help with this we have increased the frequency of newsletters. MAS Council are endeavouring to get back to meeting at the Quaker Meeting House as soon as possible and QMH is flexible but keen to have us return.

We had an electronic vote during the August zoom meeting and 57% stated that they were not available to attend the AGM in person so meeting up together indoors has been deferred until 2022.

### **Lectures and Events**

The programme subgroup has regularly met to provide the variety of events mentioned and thanks go to Sue Stallibrass, Maurice Handley, Mark Adams and David Scott who did all the hard work. Mark sourced all our Zoom lecturers giving us a wide variety of topics, many from professional archaeologists.

### **Past Indoor Meetings**

December - Maurice Handley          AGM & Christmas Quiz

January - Chris Kolonko, Citizan, - 'Decoys and Rubble, Taking another look at the wartime coast.

February - Heather Beeton, Museum of Liverpool, recent PAS finds.

March - Claire Christie, Headland Archaeology: Triton Knoll.

April - Members Evening.

May - Laurence Hayes, Principal Consultant at RSK

June - Mark Adams from RSK. - 'Early Salt-Making in Merseyside & South Lancashire'

July - Roy Forshaw - Archaeology on Hilbre Island

August - Rob Philpott - Archaeology of Norton Priory.

### **Out Door Events**

Some of us have met up for outdoor walks and a big thank you goes to the following for organising the events

Sue Stallibrass - Crosby Wartime Defences walk

Vanessa Oakden – Piermasters House dig

Roy Forshaw – Hilbre Island Walk.

## **Finance and Newsletters**

Dave Roberts has seen the newsletter workload increase due to the monthly editions on top of all the hard work as Treasurer to attend to. Dave is quite happy to give up the responsibility of newsletter editor should anyone else wish to take this up. Dave has also led on the graveyard recording at All Saints Church, Childwall where many hundreds of graves have been recorded into a database.

Thank you also to Nancy Jenkins, our auditor, who processed the accounts in record time to enable the paperwork to be issued following our decision to hold the AGM virtually.

## **Membership**

Vanessa Oakden has done splendidly looking after membership and monitoring our media platforms as well as keeping on top of subscriptions. We have seen new members join this year and it has been good to see new virtual faces at meetings. Regrettably we have received notifications of the passing of some members who will be greatly missed.

## **Secretary**

Liz Stewart is standing down as our highly efficient Secretary. She holds the record of issuing council meeting minutes at the end of our zoom meetings even before some of us have logged off. I have also relied on her for prompts when I should be asking for votes on specific items etc and generally keeping me in business order. Liz has also been a joint editor with Gorge Nash on our new Calderstones publication which is already selling well. Thank you Liz for all the hard work and administration we piled onto you. Happily, Liz is still staying on Council as a general member.

We have three places available on Council for election. The Council currently consists of

### **Officers**

Roy Forshaw - Chair

Liz Stewart – Secretary\*

Dave Roberts - Treasurer

Vanessa Oakden - Membership Secretary

Maurice Handley – Past Chair

### **Council members**

Mark Adams

Rob Philpott

Sam Rowe

David Scott\*

Sue Stallibrass

Chris Wood\*

\*Retiring and places available for election.

### **So what for the future...**

We have a conference to deliver in April which will include the AGM getting us back into the normal AGM sequence disrupted by Covid. The aim is to get back to seeing everyone in the Quaker Meeting House early 2022 and provide a more conventional series of indoor and outdoor meetings and this program is already being drawn up. We may continue with some Zoom meetings where it is an advantage getting access to speakers or if there is a major inconvenience coming into Liverpool.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in such large numbers during these difficult times and I look forward to seeing you all in person in the near future.

**Roy Forshaw**

**August 2021**