

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

Our winter evening talks take place on the third Thursday of each month until April 2024

The venue is the Quaker Meeting House (QMH) 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT. It is close to Lime Street and Liverpool Central train stations, and Queen Street and Liverpool One bus stations. See: <https://www.liverpoolquakers.org.uk/contact>

Doors open at 7.00pm for coffee/tea/biscuits and the meeting starts at 7.30pm, closing at 9.00pm
The costs to attend a meeting are £1 for MAS members, with visitors welcome at £2

NB During the midwinter months (including January) our meetings are held on-line via Zoom, to avoid travel in inclement weather. Online "doors" open 7.15 for the 7.30pm meeting.

MAS autumn/winter talks programme 2023-2024

DATE	VENUE	Speaker	Topic
Sept Thurs 21 st <small>COMPLETED</small>	QMH	Dan Garner MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)	The Chester Amphitheatre Environs Research Project in Grosvenor Park: Current results from the ongoing excavations by West Cheshire Museums in partnership with the University of Chester. https://www1.chester.ac.uk/news/archaeological-excavations-grosvenor-park
October Thurs 19 th <small>COMPLETED</small>	QMH	Warren Kern MAS	An illustrated talk (including some demonstration items) about local historic objects
November Thurs 16 th <small>COMPLETED</small>	ZOOM	Julie Franklin Headland Archaeology	Life and death in a northern milltown: excavations at St Peter's Church, Blackburn Archaeological excavations in 2015 on the site of the former St Peter's church rescued nearly 2000 19 th -century human burials.
December * Thurs 14 th * <small>COMPLETED</small>	ZOOM	Chair, members QuizMAster Mark Adams	Christmas social & Quiz *PLEASE NOTE DATE* 14 th Dec
January Thurs 18 th <small>COMPLETED</small>	ZOOM	Scott Lloyd & Jon Dollery RCAHMW	Mapping the Maps and Bounding the Bounds: Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping from Wales for the Digital Age
February Thurs 15 th	QMH	student short talks	Work in Progress talks by research students at Liverpool universities
March Thurs 21 st <small>COMPLETED</small>	QMH	Mark Adams Headland, MAS	Recent investigations at J M Worrall's Ordsall Lane dyeworks
April Thurs 18th	QMH AGM	Chair & MEMBERS	AGM +short talks by members The AGM needs YOU! Please come along to vote and have your say about the society. Short talks: -The Akkadian princess, priestess & poet Enheduana (c2285 to 2250 BCE) -The MAS summer fieldtrips + SOMETHING FROM YOURSELF??

WANTED! MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS! If you have been interested in something archaeological, eg a site, a place, an object, a question, why not share that with MAS? April 18th is a Members' evening. Can you talk to us for 10 minutes? You don't need to have a powerpoint presentation, but some photos that we can show on the screen would be helpful. Please contact Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk or Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

MAS summer fieldtrip programme (as at 29th March 2024)

	WHERE	MORE INFO	ORGANISER
<p>April Sat 20th</p>	<p>Fort Perch Rock & Magazine Brow, New Brighton</p> <p>To see the 1829 fortification (originally built to provide defence during the Napoleonic wars + a lighthouse at the mouth of the Mersey).</p> <p>Then heading to Magazine Brow, the site of a gunpowder battery.</p> <p>Plus a walk around Magazines Village which dates back to Jacobean times at its core</p>	<p>Meet at the Floral Pavilion at 10.00 am</p> <p>Address: Marine Parade, New Brighton CH45 2JS.</p> <p>There are toilets and a café in the foyer of the Floral Pavilion.</p> <p>The visit will take about 2 to 3 hours. Bring your own lunch or buy at local cafes and pubs.</p>	<p>Ann Gemmell + Roy Forshaw</p> <p>TO BOOK: please contact Ann at ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com</p> <p>Deadline for booking: Monday 15th April</p> <p>TRANSPORT: car or public transport. New Brighton railway station (Merseyrail) is about 15 minutes' walk away.</p> <p>MEET: in the foyer of the Floral Pavilion at 10.00 am https://www.floralpavilion.com/</p> <p>FURTHER DETAILS AT END OF THIS BULLETIN</p>
<p>May Sat 18th</p>	<p>Pimbo & Upholland</p> <p>This area, formerly all in the old county of Lancashire, saw tremendous changes in the post-medieval period when wetland drainage allowed agricultural development and the natural stone, coal and clay resources were exploited on an industrial scale</p>	<p>Post-medieval mining & farming landscape</p> <p>MEET: in the small layby close to Upholland train station at NGR SD 51000375</p> <p>There are no facilities during the walk, which will take about 4.5 hours. We aim to be back in Pimbo about 3.0pm</p>	<p>Roy Forshaw & Sue Stallibrass</p> <p>TO BOOK: please contact Roy at roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk</p> <p>Deadline for booking: Saturday 27th April</p> <p>TRANSPORT: public transport is slow but feasible (see details below) Car: Please consider car sharing to minimise parking issues</p> <p>MEET: We will leave prompt at 10.30 am and recommend arriving at 10.00am to take advantage of the café at the Pimbo Garden Centre</p> <p>FURTHER DETAILS AT END OF THIS BULLETIN</p>

June Sat 22 nd & Sun 23 rd	Sat 22nd Old Oswestry & Wroxeter Sun 23rd Ironbridge Gorge Museums	Old Oswestry: later prehistoric 'hillfort' Wroxeter Roman City + Museum Ironbridge Gorge Museums	Sue Stallibrass + Mark Adams Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk Further details to follow later. These are two full days out and can be combined or undertaken individually TRANSPORT: Car sharing highly recommended
Sat July 6 th	Eastham Country Park & Eastham Village, Wirral	Victorian Pleasure Park, historic village	Ann Gemmell ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com TRANSPORT: public transport or car
Sept	7/ 8	Heritage Open Days	National Heritage Open Days (DIY)
	14/15	Heritage Open Days	National Heritage Open Days (DIY)
Sept	Thurs 19 th		1st MAS evening talk (in person)
October	SAT 5 th OCT	MAS CONFERENCE	AIM 2024 ARCHAEOLOGY IN MERSEYSIDE 2024
October	Thurs 17 th		2nd MAS evening talk (in person)

We also hope to have a short visit to **St Patrick's churchyard, Toxteth** in the summer: date to be arranged (the team investigating the site are waiting to hear about funding)

Heritage Open Days are DIY but there will be lots of sites & events to choose from.

MAS 2024 summer fieldtrips at a glance:

More details will be available to registered participants (so please book with the relevant organiser!) for each specific walk, but here's an introduction:

Saturday 20th April New Brighton & Fort Perch Rock: the north coast of the Wirral peninsula has a lot of historic buildings, including a Napoleonic fort built to guard the entrance to the River Mersey. This tour will explore the built heritage and its history.

- Easy walking on pavements etc, with plenty of public transport access and refreshment/comfort facilities.
- A half day (Saturday morning)

SEE DETAILS AT END OF BULLETIN FOR THIS WALK

Saturday 18th May Pimbo & Upholland landscape: This area on the current borders of Merseyside, West Lancs and Greater Manchester has an interesting geology that was exploited in the post-Medieval period for the extraction of coal, sandstone, sand and clay. The low-lying land was fertile agricultural land once the peat mosses were drained. The landscape is dotted with disused shafts & quarries, a major brick and terracotta works, routes of works' railways and tramways, and farm buildings of historic & architectural interest.

- This will be a full day out in the countryside and will require suitable clothing and footwear, and a packed lunch to eat 'in the field'.
- Refreshment and comfort facilities are available at the start and finish of this circular walk.

SEE DETAILS AT END OF BULLETIN FOR THIS WALK

Saturday 22nd June: Wroxeter Roman city and museum and Old Oswestry prehistoric 'Hillfort'

+ Sunday 23rd June: Ironbridge Gorge Museums

- These two days can be combined if you wish to have a weekend away & stay overnight in Shropshire, or you can participate on one or both days as individual daytrips.
- Each day is a full day and car sharing will be extremely helpful.

Old Oswestry hillfort is en route to Wroxeter and is a well-preserved large hilltop enclosure usually referred to as an Iron Age hillfort although it may well have originated in the Bronze Age and has such a large circuit of 'defences' that it was probably undefendable.

Wroxeter is a remarkably well-preserved ruined Roman city with a site museum and visitor facilities (English Heritage).

The Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Coalbrookdale near Telford take their name from Thomas Telford's Iron Bridge which still stands across the gorge of the River Severn. There are many different museums and sites, illustrating different industrial processes associated with ironworking, and there is a comprehensive 'Victorian town' to explore.

- Old Oswestry is owned by English Heritage and is open access. There is quite a steep climb (easy steps) at the entrance but the views are worth it from the top!
- Wroxeter and the Ironbridge Gorge Museums are all easy paths with visitor facilities.

Saturday 6th July Eastham Country Park & Eastham village: The country park contains the remains of the Eastham Ferry Pleasure Gardens, visited by Queen Victoria. Some remains (including the bear pit!) can still be seen or traced on the ground. There are also historic ferry points and good views across the Mersey. The nearby village of Eastham is one of the older settlements on the Wirral peninsula and contains some interesting old buildings.

- This is likely to be a half day excursion.
- It has good transport connections, the walking is flat and easy, and there are facilities in the park and hostelries etc in the village.

Forthcoming online talks

BeFrail webinar series NEW SERIES!

These FREE webinars introduce human frailty linked with pandemics/epidemics and war in the human past via archaeological contextualisation.

You can see the line-up and book each talk at their Eventbrite booking page:
NB please note that day of week and time of day vary for this series!

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/befrill-webinars-tickets-856980129637?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete&keep_tld=1

Thursday 4th April 15.00 (ie 3pm) Dr Sandra Assis- '**Bones and diseases:** contributions and challenges of paleohistopathology for the study of past human conditions.'

Friday 12th April 16.00 (ie 4pm) Dr Nicholas Márquez-Grant - 'Taphonomy: **What happens to the body after death?**'

Tuesday 16th April 16.00 (ie 4pm) Prof Amanda Wissler - 'Socio-demographic **causes of frailty in the 1918 flu pandemic.**'

Wednesday 24th April 12.00 noon Dr Eline Schotsmans - 'The use of **lime as a disinfectant during epidemics.**'

Friday 10th May 15.00 (ie 3pm) Prof Alexandra Esteves - 'Diseases and epidemic outbreaks in Portugal in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.'

Friday 17th May 18.00 (ie 6pm) Prof Sharon DeWitte - 'Stress, sex, and death: health and survival in the context of medieval famine and plague.'

Friday 24th May 15.00 (ie 3pm) Dr Olalla López-Costas - 'Food on the move: bioarchaeology of diet and mobility.'

Gresham College provide national lecture series by leading specialists

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all>

all online talks are FREE but register in advance (or watch online later)

NB you can watch **recordings of previous ones** if you missed the live event

The Political Imagination of Ancient Greek Ideas, Prof Melissa Lane,

Thurs 19th Oct 2023 to 13th June 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/political-ideas>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Thurs 19th Oct 2023: Plato and the ideas of political office: see the recording

Thurs 11th Jan 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of justice

Thurs 07th March 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of equality under the law

Thurs 14th March 2024: Democracy: ancient models, modern challenges

Thurs 30th May 2024: Experts in politics: lessons from Socrates and Aristotle

Thurs 13th Jun 2024: Plato's cave: thinking about climate change

Evolution: The Big Questions, Prof Robin May,

Weds 4th October to 8th May 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/evolution-questions>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Weds 04th Oct 2023: A small history of big evolutionary ideas: see the recording

Wed, 15 Nov 2023: Random chance in evolution

Weds 20th Jan 2024: Why is there only one species of human?

Weds 07th Feb 2024: a 300,000-year history of human evolution

Weds 20th March 2024: Artificial selection: How humans have shaped evolution

Weds 08th May 2024: Evolution tomorrow and beyond

Magic, the Supernatural, and the Lost Gods of Europe, Prof Ronald Hutton:

Weds 20th Sept 2023 to 5th June 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/magic-europe>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Weds 20th Oct 2023: Ancient goddesses of sex and war: see recording

Weds 08th Nov 2023: Were there pagan goddesses in Christian Europe?

Weds 14th Feb 2024: Dragons: a history

Weds 06th March 2024: Ritual nudity in history and religion

Weds 24th April 2024: The western magical tradition

Weds 05th Jun 2024: Witch-hunting in European and world histo

Society of Antiquaries of London:

None in April (Easter break) but heads up for May 9th

Thursday May 9th 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Professor David Mattingly

Talking to the Ancestors: Iron Age Painted Tombs of the Wadi Draa, Morocco

A joint event with the Hellenic Society and the Roman Society

The Iron Age peoples of the Sahara remain poorly studied archaeologically, so we have little to counteract the dismissive views of desert communities found in the ancient sources, where they tend to be characterized as barbarians and nomads.

The Oasis Civilisations project in southern Morocco has been investigating the Iron Age and Medieval inhabitants of an important desert valley, the Wadi Draa.

This lecture will present a stunning archaeological discovery of tombs with painted annexes, featuring both geometric designs and human figures. These pictures open a fresh window on the late Iron Age population and their relationship with the Roman empire to their north.

They allow us to compare and qualify the accounts of Greco-Roman writers so as to present a more complex and richer picture of these people, their clothing, lifestyle and beliefs.

The lecture will also link the new data to themes in my recent book: Africa in the Roman Empire.

FREE (or £3 optional donation) but Book in advance

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/talking-to-the-ancestors-iron-age-painted-tombs-of-the-wadi-draa-morocco/>

Past Online Talks

The University of Reading is leading a research project called REMADE that investigates metal alloys: **Roman and Early Medieval Alloys Defined**

They held a conference last September which focused on interconnected themes: Roman and Medieval metallurgy; science in UK heritage; increasing access to analysis of small finds; ethics and protocols for sampling archaeological material; displaying and communicating scientific results to the public; open access research.

Recordings of the presentations are available at:

<https://research.reading.ac.uk/remade/conference/>

topics available:

- Analysing the Cunetio Hoard, A.D. 260-275: New chemical and numismatic insights.
- Wirral Brooches; regional bling
- The use of scientific techniques within developer-led archaeology
- Enabling scientific research: the museum perspective
- Using collections to revive the Museum of Archaeology: England's second oldest university museum that no one has ever heard of [Durham Castle Museum if you are wondering!]
- REVIEWED and REMADE: New Research into Colchester Museums' Roman Archaeology Collections
- **REMADE lead** – Chemical analysis is a social tool: people and stories in the European copper-alloy scientific dataset
- What we need to know about the metallurgy of the coinages of Carausius and Allectus
- The Portable Antiquities Scheme's records of copper-alloy objects and their potential for research, with a focus on early-Medieval archaeology

Other online resources

The University of York's Department of Archaeology has a YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@UofYArchaeology/videos>

this is partly aimed at prospective students and there is a series of ~one-hour videos of 'taster' Postgraduate seminars for prospective students that have interesting content about prehistory, conservation etc. There are also lots of quickie snapshots of a wide range of topics: prehistoric fire-lighting, Roman slavery etc, student training excavation blogs/diaries, and professional advice and personal testimonies/stories.

Lancaster is a historic city with many archaeological investigations, often covering the important **Roman remains**. Two reports on the Roman remains are available at <https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure/museums/roman-lancaster>

The report by Jason Wood of Heritage Consultancy Services draws together the archaeological work that has taken place, providing a comprehensive overview of work to date with a focus on the Roman heritage of the site. This analysis ends with the exciting news that geophysics has brought to light what is very likely to be a Romano-Celtic temple. If true, this will be only the second to be discovered in the North of England – the other being at Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall. Lancaster City Council commissioned the report from Heritage Consultancy Services to gain a full understanding of the work that had already taken place on site. The council has set up an expert advisory group that is helping to develop a research framework for the fort site and related adjacent areas so that priorities for future investigation can be decided based on what we know so far and following consultation with archaeological professionals, academics, heritage groups and members of the public.

The report by the Lancaster and District Heritage Group details the excavation that was undertaken in 2015 on part of what is now proposed to be a Romano-Celtic temple, before the geophysics revealed the rest of the building. It demonstrates the process of discovery and understanding that takes place as further pieces are added to the puzzle and the importance of recording as much detail as possible and of undertaking post-excavation analysis. In the light of the geophysics it can now be returned to with fresh eyes.

The University of Reading's **Roman and Early Medieval Alloys Defined (REMADE)** project is investigating the metallurgy of metal alloys: "Reshaping Archaeological Metallurgy: A new role for science in Britain's heritage sector" Metallurgy is essential to archaeology's aim of interrogating the past. We know remarkably little about how metallurgy helped drive the complex story of the British long first millennium AD. Currently, the half a million Iron Age, Roman, and early medieval copper-alloy finds across the country are chemically mute. There is a gulf between the importance and potential of this huge archive and the amount of scientific attention it has received. The scientific study of copper-alloy is fractured, uncoordinated, and cut off from the realities of modern archaeology in the UK.

The project is quite well advanced and you can read about their progress and access several publications from the project's home website at <https://research.reading.ac.uk/remade/about-us/the-project/>

NB some of the (red) hyperlinks in the bibliography will take you through to full, open-access articles, some take you to abstracts but not the full article, and some only take you to bibliographic reference data.

PS And you can watch several presentations from their September 2023 conference: see the 'Past online talks' section above.

The Medieval Ritual Landscape: Archaeology, Material Culture and Lived Religion project (MeRit) is a collaboration between the **University of Reading** and the **British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme**.

MeRit will explore the archaeological evidence for everyday religion in medieval England (c. 1000-1600), i.e. material culture used in household devotion, healing, protective charms, grave goods (e.g. pilgrim badges, papal bullae, book fittings, dress accessories/objects with sacred inscriptions).

It will compare religious objects recovered as public finds (PAS) with those excavated from archaeological contexts in three case study regions (Kent, Norfolk and North Yorkshire including York). [pity they are all in the east of the country!]

The regional case studies will give insight to local patterns of religious belief and provide important contextual and chronological understanding. The methodology will focus on spatial and statistical analyses (digital humanities methods).

English evidence will be placed in comparative context, drawing particularly on public finds from Denmark and the Netherlands. Existing data from multiple sources will be integrated in a project database and made publicly accessible through ADS on completion.

The project responds to current research questions in medieval archaeology and history, highlighting the beliefs and religious agency of ordinary people. It recognises the untapped potential for the study of later medieval PAS data and the possibilities for using digital humanities methods to identify patterning in material culture and religious behaviours at regional, national and transnational scales.

<https://research.reading.ac.uk/medieval-ritual-landscape/>

The **Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology** at the **Museum of Cambridge University** created a digital site in 2022 with information and some online exhibitions.

<https://www.maadigitallab.org>

Their blog site is particularly comprehensive and varied, with all sorts of topics from the UK and around the world.

www.maadigitallab.org/blog

The rock-cut churches at Lalibela, Ethiopia: Lalibela was a city where 11 rock-cut churches were constructed in the 12th and 13th centuries on the orders of the local king, to create a symbolic version of Jerusalem (because pilgrimages to the original were blocked by Muslim occupation). Some churches are carved into cliff-faces,

some through pits and tunnels. A four-year project recorded the churches, and this website has lots of images: 3-D models, ground plans, photographs, panoramas etc. <https://www.zamaniproject.org/site-ethiopia-lalibela-rock-hewn-churches.html>

TV programmes

The Cambridgeshire Crucifixion is a new, one-hour one-off BBC 4 documentary that studies the skeletal remains of a person buried at a Roman site in the Cambridgeshire Fens. There is a nail through one of their ankle bones, which may indicate that they were killed by crucifixion. A team of archaeologists used CT scans, ancient DNA and chemical isotopes to undertake a virtual autopsy of the skeleton and create a full forensic facial reconstruction. Other specialists discuss the archaeological evidence at the site and discuss life there in the 1st century AD/CE. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001v60k>

Discovering the Music of Antiquity is a new, one-off one-hour BBC 4 programme first broadcast on Monday 4th March. It explores a papyrus fragment (found in a biscuit tin in the Louvre museum!) that contains part of a music score from ancient Greece. The composer was Carcinus, an author cited by Aristotle in his *Rhetoric*. The programme talks with epigraphers and musicians as they translate/read the score and try to recreate the 2400 year old music using reproductions of instruments found in archaeological excavations on the coast of the Mediterranean. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001x1vb/discovering-the-music-of-antiquity>

Digging for Britain If your appetite has been wetted by the recent rebroadcasting of Series 9, here are some ways to catch up with previous series: The series of 6 new one-hour programmes first broadcast in January/February this year are available to watch on catch up or here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001tmn9> and you can watch earlier series here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b014hl0d/episodes/guide>

Countryfile (BBC1 Sunday 24th March) was entirely devoted to archaeological sites and investigations. Archaeology at Hinton Ampner is available here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001xpqm/countryfile-archaeology-at-hinton-ampner?seriesId=unsliced&page=1>

Other Dates for your Diary in 2024

Saturday 25th May 2024 St Helens Heritage Festival at St Helens Town Hall
Following the success of their first festival in 2023, held to celebrate their status as Merseyside Borough of Culture, St Helens will be holding a 2024 festival, and **Merseyside Archaeology Society** will again be advertising and recruiting for the Society.

Booking isn't live yet, but hold the date

(and possibly volunteer to help staff our Society's stall!)

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th May Wirral Viking Festival at Leasowe Castle Hotel
Leasowe Rd, Wirral CH46 3RF <https://www.thewirralvikingfestival.co.uk/>

The Wirral Viking Festival uses a combination of re-enactments, immersive story telling & educational talks, to tell the story of the Wirral Vikings who settled here in 902AD, and offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the Ancient Norse myths and legends told throughout the Ancient Norse world.

They work closely with local museums, historians, ecologists and archaeologists to provide educational & historical talks, lectures & demonstrations.

Interactive activities include: live battle re-enactments, immersive theatre, live music, themed craft, activity & food stalls,

The reenactors are Regia Anglorum <https://regia.org/>

and you can book for the Festival at:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thewirralvikingfestival/952464>

Friday 21st – Sunday 30th June 2024 The local annual **Chester Heritage Festival** will be held in various venues around the city.

You can sign up in advance to receive their newsletter which will advertise events as they become organised and available for booking.

<https://www.chesterheritagefestival.co.uk/>

Saturday 13 July – Sunday 28 July 2024 Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Festival of Archaeology Theme = **Archaeology and Community**.

You can sign up in advance to receive their newsletter which will advertise events as they become organised and available for booking, or you can simply check the website from time to time to see events as they become publicised.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html>

Friday 19th July 8.00 am – 7.00 pm is **Ask an Archaeologist day!** On X (formerly Twitter)

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/askanarchaeologist-day--1.html>

Monday 22nd July 7.00 – 8.30 pm A panel discussion: **Redefining National Amenity for the 21st Century**

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of Historic Buildings & Places and the 80th anniversary of the Council for British Archaeology. To help celebrate our milestones the directors of the seven National Amenity Societies invite you to join them for a Question Time style panel session exploring our origins, roles, and the nature of 'National Amenity' in the twenty-first century.

This is your chance to ask us questions and help us shape the voice of amenity and heritage. Have you ever wondered what 'national amenity' means? Do the National Amenity Societies still have a role today - do you know what we do and how we work together? How are we addressing the key issues facing society today?

This will be an online event hosted on Zoom with a chance to submit your questions to the panel. You will be able to submit questions in advance when you register to attend. There will also be a chance to ask further questions during the evening as the discussion develops.

The Panel:

Liz Power, Director, Historic Buildings & Places

Neil Redfern, Executive Director, Council for British Archaeology

Matthew Slocombe, Director, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

FREE but book a place to receive the link:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/redefining-national-amenity-for-the-st-century.html>

Thursday 25th July 9.00 am – 7.00 pm A Day in Archaeology

Have you ever wondered what archaeologists really do? Do they just dig or are there other aspects to their work? A Day In Archaeology, sponsored by Prospect, showcases 'a day in the life' of archaeologists from all over the UK.

Throughout the day archaeologists, heritage professionals, students and volunteers will share blogs talking about a day in their life. You might be surprised to see just how many opportunities there are to get involved in archaeology from fieldwork to the science lab, museums to building sites, the possibilities are endless.

Our contributors will also share the paths they took to get to where they are now. Find out how their careers developed, why they chose to study archaeology or how they got involved in volunteering.

Blog posts are uploaded throughout A Day In Archaeology and stay on the Festival website site all year round to form a developing resource for anyone interested in a career in archaeology or wanting to find out more about the range of opportunities to participate.

Taking part **Anyone can take part in A Day In Archaeology whether you are a professional, volunteer, or student, have been involved in archaeology for many years, or are just embarking on your journey.**

Submitting your blog is easy via our simple form, all you need are a title, blog text, and some images.

Submissions open on Saturday 13 July 2024 and submitted blogs will go live on the Festival website on Thursday 25 July.

A link to submit your blog will be available here from Saturday 13 July.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/a-day-in-archaeology-2.html>

NB All of the A Day In Archaeology blogs from 2019- 2023 are available for you to look at: <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/a-day-in-archaeology.html>

The Museum of Liverpool (MoL) is running **Festival of Archaeology** events:
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/museum-of-liverpool#section--plan-your-visit>

Friday 12th July 3.00 – 4.00 pm IN PERSON talk by Dr Liz Stewart,

BOOK Tickets £7.00

Beyond The Label – Digging Little Hell

In 2019 the Museum of Liverpool archaeology team undertook the first excavation of courtyard housing in Liverpool. This type of low quality, high density-housing was home to around half of Liverpool's working class people by the mid-19th century. This dig, in an area of the city described as 'little hell' in a court case in the 1880s, revealed some surprises about the everyday lives of people in 'Court 2, Oakes Street'.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/beyond-the-label-digging-little-hell.html>

Free hands-on sessions with finds at MoL Saturday 13th – Friday 19th July:

Get hands on with the past as you get the chance to look at, touch and find out about real objects from the Museum of Liverpool's archaeology collection.

Session timings are 11am-12noon and 1:30pm-4pm

Please CHECK as morning sessions are one hour and afternoons are 2.5 hours!

Saturday 13th	11.00 – 12.00,
Saturday 13 th	1.30 – 4.00 pm,
Tuesday 16th	11.00 – 12.00,
Tuesday 16 th	1.30 – 4.00 pm,
Wednesday 17th	11.00 – 12.00,
Wednesday 17 th	1.30 – 4.00 pm,
Thursday 18th	11.00 – 12.00,
Thursday 18 th	1.30 – 4.00 pm
Friday 19th	11.00 – 12.00,
Friday 19 th	1.30 – 4.00 pm

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/up-close-with-archaeology-1.html>

Saturday 20th July: 1.30 – 3.30 pm **YAC and Me!** a drop-in event:

YAC is the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA's) **Young Archaeologists' Club**

This event is hosted by the **Mersey and Dee Young Archaeologists Club**

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/yac-and-me.html>

Do you know any young people who might like a taster session in Liverpool?

See the website of the **Young Archaeologists Club** for more details about YAC:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/youth-engagement/young-archaeologists-club.html>

Tuesday 23rd July	11.00 – 12.00	Craft at the Museum – Castles 2024
Tuesday 23rd July	1.30 – 4.00 pm	Craft at the Museum – Castles 2024

Did you know Liverpool used to have a castle? Discover more about this long-lost building and make a castle to take home.

Drop-in Castles Craft events:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/craft-at-the-museum-castles.html>

Wednesday 24th July 11.00 – 12.00 Craft at the Museum – Skeletons 2024

Wednesday 24th July 1.30 – 4.00 pm Craft at the Museum – Skeletons 2024

Osteoarchaeology or Bioarchaeology is the study of human remains found on archaeological dig sites. Come and make your own skeleton complete with anatomical names for the different bones.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/craft-at-the-museum-skeletons.html>

Wednesday 24th July 11.30 am Little Diggers' Adventure 2024

Wednesday 24th July 1.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024

Wednesday 24th July 2.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024

Join our Archaeologists in a hunt around the Museum looking for treasures from our past in this interactive session for Archaeologists of the Future aged 3-7 years.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/little-diggers-adventure-2.html>

Thursday 25th July 11.00 – 12.00 Craft at the Museum – Viking helmets 2024

Thursday 25th July 1.30 – 4.00pm Craft at the Museum – Viking helmets 2024

Get creative and make a Viking inspired helmet to take home with you as we remember some of the settlers who first visited Merseyside shores more than 1000 years ago!

Please CHECK times: morning is one hour, afternoon is 2.5 hours

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/craft-at-the-museum-viking-helmets.html>

Thursday 25th July 11.30 am Little Diggers' Adventure 2024

Thursday 25th July 1.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024

Thursday 25th July 2.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024

Join our Archaeologists in a hunt around the Museum looking for treasures from our past in this interactive session for Archaeologists of the Future aged 3-7 years.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/little-diggers-adventure-1.html>

**Friday 12th July 3.00 – 4.00 pm IN PERSON talk by Dr Liz Stewart,
Beyond The Label – Secrets of the Spirals**

The Calderstones are decorated with a range of symbols which date from the Neolithic to the Victorian periods. This talk with Dr. Liz Stewart will explore the history of the Calderstones, these symbols and their possible meanings.

Our museums and galleries are a treasure trove of fascinating stories and world class collections. In this exciting series of Beyond the Label talks you will get the opportunity to meet the experts who care for our collections, find out never-before-told, behind the scenes stories of our most beloved objects, and get the opportunity to pick the brains of a real museum expert.

BOOK Tickets £7.00

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/beyond-the-label-secrets-of-the-spirals.html>

Friday 6th – Sunday 15th September **Heritage Open Days** **Lots of events!**
<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Saturday 05th October **Archaeology in Merseyside (AIM) 2024 conference**
This is the biennial conference organised by Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS ie us!). Lots of talks and activities. To be held in the Museum of Liverpool

HOLD THE DATE!

Full programme of speakers and activity sessions in the April Bulletin

PLEASE contact Sue with information about **online resources** that you think other MAS members might be interested in.

Thanks to Alex Bowers & Nancy Jenkins for their helpful information this month

And we would love to hear suggestions for **future summer fieldtrips** for 2025
Anywhere you've been recently that you think others would also enjoy
(or sites on your hit list that you haven't made it to yet)?

Suggestions & Comments, please to: Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk

Bulletin compiled: 29th March 2024

Saturday 20th April

New Brighton & Fort Perch Rock



Preliminary further information (registered participants will receive further details)

LOCATION: We meet at 10.00 at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton, which is opposite Fort Perch Rock. Address is Marine Parade, New Brighton CH45 2JS. There are toilets and a café in the foyer of the pavilion.

TRANSPORT: car or public transport. New Brighton train station is approximately 15 minutes walk away. There is a bus stop outside Morrisons supermarket.

ORGANISER: The visit will be led by Ann Gemmell with Roy Forshaw

BOOKING: to register your interest and book places, please email before Monday 15th April: ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com

TIMINGS: the visit will take about 2 to 3 hours and lunches could be bring your own or obtained in the local cafes.

FACILITIES: Floral Pavilion has toilets and a café. There are various pubs and cafes along the route. And New Brighton railway station also has toilets.

THE VISIT will include:

A visit to Fort Perch Rock. This fortification was built in 1829 and contained 16 x 32 pound guns when first constructed. It has undergone many changes over the years and was manned during WWI and WWII.

There may be a high tide on the day we visit so we may not be able to walk all around the outside.

Exploring the Magazine Brow. In 1751 a piece of land was purchased in New Brighton to build a store for gunpowder. The area was described as a rocky, sandy, barren waste which was ideal for storing gunpowder. The compound was surrounded by thick walls to minimise any impact of an explosion. We will look at the remains of the battery walls and entrance plus The Magazines village which dates back to Jacobean times at its core.

HAZARDS: Please wear sensible footwear for walking on sand and wet pavements. There are some hills as we walk up the roads to Magazine Brow.

Saturday 18th May.

Pimbo: post-medieval mining and farming landscape



Preliminary further information (registered participants will receive further details)

LOCATION: Pimbo is south of Skelmersdale on the Merseyside/Lancashire/Greater Manchester border (where South-West Lancashire, St Helens and Wigan boundaries meet).

Maps: An A4 map of the walk will be provided to participants, but if you are curious: the area is covered by OS Landranger sheet 108: Liverpool, Southport & Wigan (at 1:50,000) and by OS Explorer sheet 285: Southport & Chorley (at 1:25,000).

TIME & VENUE: The walk starts promptly at 10.30am. Please allow yourself plenty of time to find somewhere to park if you are arriving by car (see below), and/or to visit the café at the Pimbo Garden Centre <https://pimbogardencentre.co.uk/>

We recommend aiming for 10.00am.

We will meet and set off at 10.30am prompt from the small layby on Pimbo Lane that is on the south-east side of the railway bridge at NGR SD 51000375 (almost opposite Pimbo Garden Centre).

The small car park is suitable for approximately 5 cars subject to rail users' demand. If the small car park is full then try street parking on Pimbo Lane by a row of cottages. Please do not use the nearby Pimbo Garden Centre for parking, although you may find their postcode useful for Sat Nav purposes: WN8 9QQ. May is a busy time for them and they do not have spare capacity for people who are not present at the centre.

TRANSPORT: car or public transport. Public transport is slow and infrequent but feasible:

Bus: The 312 bus serves Up Holland Station bus stop.

This is an hourly service from Rainford to Ormskirk

<https://merseytravel.adidocdn.dev/timetables/Bus/312-27Nov23.pdf>

Rail: There is an hourly service leaving Headbolt Lane Station on the Kirby line 46 mins past the hour arriving at Upholland Station at 57 mins past the hour. The return journey is 25 mins past the hour to Headbolt Lane. Trains are also available from Orrell (where they can connect with buses from St Helens)

Car: parking is very limited in Pimbo (which is a one-street village) so please consider car sharing. If you can offer a lift to others, then please indicate this when you book a place on the walk: pick-ups from local train stations could be very helpful eg Rainford Junction, St Helens, or Gathurst & Appley Bridge (on the Southport/Parbold/Wigan line)

ORGANISER: The visit will be led by Roy Forshaw and Sue Stallibrass

BOOKING: to register your interest and book places, please email Roy Forshaw at roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk by 27th April, if possible, to receive further details. The party is to be restricted to 15. After this date if there are any spaces unallocated we will be making places available for Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society.

TIMINGS: the visit will take about 4.5 hours. We can buy refreshments at Pimbo Garden Centre café and use their facilities before leaving. Please note that there will be no facilities available enroute. We will leave the meeting point in Pimbo at 10.30 a.m. prompt and hope to return by 3.00 p.m. We will be walking at a steady pace and stopping to look at sites of interest.

FACILITIES: Pimbo Garden Centre which is open from 10.00 – 4.30. There will be no facilities enroute. Please bring lunch and drink sufficient for the day. We will picnic in a treelined depression where we can ponder as to its use.

THE VISIT will include:

This will be a circular walk starting from Pimbo village looking at the various historic buildings and industrial remains including sites of collieries and their supporting transport networks (a mix of tramways and railways). We will also look at the earthworks from a large brick and tile works and its railway connections.

There are plenty of farm buildings plus depressions from various mineral extractions.

HAZARDS: Please wear sensible footwear such as walking boots as the paths through the fields can be muddy and slippery, particularly after wet weather. There are 5 stiles to negotiate, one set of steps into a sunken lane and one steep hill to walk up.

Please wear clothing suitable for the anticipated weather and bring sunscreen/a hat.