

## Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

Our winter evening talks take place on the third Thursday of each month until April 2023

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. Details of the venue are here: <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

### Winter evening talks 2022-2023

DATE	venue		
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	In person QMH	AGM & Members' evening	<p><b>After the AGM</b> we shall have some short contributions from MAS members.</p> <p>We have three interesting talks offered by volunteers, and hope to have time for all of them on the night:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cup Marked Stones - Rock Art or What?</li><li>• Some historic artefacts (show &amp; tell)</li><li>• Items from Thomas Hope's Grand Tour collection at the Lady Lever Art Gallery</li></ul>

### Summer events 2023 April - September

During the summer months we organise monthly outings to sites, landscapes, visitor attractions etc. If you are interested in attending any or all of them, please contact the organiser of each outing that you wish to attend. Their email addresses are provided in the provisional summer outings programme (below). This provides the organiser with an indication of numbers involved, helps with coordinating travel arrangements, and means that you shouldn't get left behind anywhere! More details of each outing will be provided closer to the time.

And if you have any ideas of other outings that you would like MAS to organise next year, then please let [Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) know!

**Provisional summer outings calendar (some dates to be confirmed (tbc))**

WHEN	WHERE	MORE INFO	ORGANISER
<b>SUN 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>  <b>*DATE chang ed</b>	<p>INFORMAL VISIT to <b>Bolton Museum to view Egyptian displays mentioned by curator Ian Trumble in his MAS talk on Zoom November 2022</b></p> <p>The museum and aquarium are fully open.</p> <p>In Feb, the art gallery is undergoing maintenance and doesn't yet have a definite re-opening date but: on 25<sup>th</sup> March a new exhibition concerning the artist Lowry and his connections to Bolton and the football team Bolton Wanderers opens to the public. It includes the Lowry painting 'Going to the Match'. <a href="https://www.bolton.gov.uk/news/article/1500/going-to-the-match-iconic-football-painting-is-heading-for-bolton">https://www.bolton.gov.uk/news/article/1500/going-to-the-match-iconic-football-painting-is-heading-for-bolton</a></p>	<p>This will not involve any guided tours or talks, but if you would like to</p> <p>(a) visit the museum &amp; (b) do so in company with like-minded people (or have company travelling or go for coffee/lunch afterwards) then come along</p> <p><a href="https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/bolton-museum">https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/bolton-museum</a></p>	<p>Organiser <a href="mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk">Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk</a></p> <p>TRANSPORT: train or car</p> <p><b>11.00 am :</b></p> <p><b>Meet at the Bolton Museum entrance</b></p>

\*PLEASE CONTACT SUE IN ADVANCE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO BOLTON

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE TO SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL** due to advertised train strike

If people would like to rendezvous at Liverpool Lime Street there is a Northern stopping train departs at 09.13, change at Wigan, departs 10.24 arrives Bolton 10.42

<b>SAT 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<p><b>Childwall All Saints Church cemetery</b> to hear about the long-term recording and archive project led by Dave Roberts (<b>see MAS evening talk 16<sup>th</sup> March!</b>)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/childwall-graves">https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/childwall-graves</a></p>	<p>Childwall leader Dave Roberts</p> <p>TRANSPORT: car or public transport</p>
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<b>SAT 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<p>Visit to <b>Ness Gardens</b> to see the various reconstructed or re-located monuments and to receive a talk/demonstration by Peter Hommel about EARTH (Experimental Archaeology Research &amp; Teaching Hub)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/science,,research/experimentalarchaeologyresearchandteachinghub/">https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/science,,research/experimentalarchaeologyresearchandteachinghub/</a></p>	<p>Organiser <a href="mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk">Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk</a></p> <p>TRANSPORT: car or public transport: the 487 bus runs every 30 mins from central Liverpool and stops right outside the entrance. The hourly 22 bus from Chester stops about a mile away <a href="https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/visit,us/getting-here/">https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/visit,us/getting-here/</a></p>
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MAS April 2023 Forthcoming Programme & Online Resources

<b>July</b> date TBC (poss Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> tbc)	<b>Loggerheads Country Park</b> An industrial landscape (lead mining and water power) in a beautiful limestone valley. Easy walking access to visitor centre, picnic area & café and several industrial monuments eg a mill, leats etc.	<a href="https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevall.org.uk/projects/loggerheads-country-park/">https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevall.org.uk/projects/loggerheads-country-park/</a>	Organiser: Roy Forshaw  TRANSPORT: <b>car share will be essential</b>  We hope to make this a joint visit with Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society (MIHS)
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AUGUST NO FIELD TRIP (height of summer holiday season) tbc

<b>SUN</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>Sept</b>	<b>Birkenhead Park</b> (in morning) & (provisionally) the <b>U-Boat experience</b> and/or the <b>Giant Grasshopper</b> in the afternoon.  BigHeritage have taken on the U-Boat & Dean Paton gave a talk to MAS in October about the regeneration of heritage venues in Birkenhead	We are planning to have a guided walk around the historic Birkenhead Park in the morning by one of the rangers. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birkenhead_Park#:~:text=Birkenhead%20Park%20is%20a%20major,civic%20park%20in%20the%20world.">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birkenhead_Park#:~:text=Birkenhead%20Park%20is%20a%20major,civic%20park%20in%20the%20world.</a>  Members can then choose whether or not to stay for an afternoon visit to the U-boat Experience and/or the Giant Grasshopper steam engine at the Shore Road pumping station (built for the railway tunnel under the Mersey) <a href="https://bigheritage.co.uk/the-u-boat-story/">https://bigheritage.co.uk/the-u-boat-story/</a>  <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shore_Road_Pumping_Station">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shore_Road_Pumping_Station</a>	Leaders : Ann Gemmell (am) & Roy Forshaw (pm)  TRANSPORT: plenty of public transport links to Birkenhead, but carshare might be helpful moving between venues.
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**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September: Heritage Open Days**

This is the annual festival that sees many heritage sites and venues in UK either open to the public when they are usually not accessible, or open for extra times and/or special events

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> NB The list of events should go live in June

<b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup></b> <b>– Sun</b> <b>17<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Sept</b>  <b>Exact</b> <b>date</b> <b>tbc</b>	INFORMAL VISIT:  <b>St Helens church, Sefton</b> <a href="https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-helen-sefton">https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-helen-sefton</a>  St Helens Church, Sefton contains many interesting features and is usually specially accessible for one or two days during the annual festival of Heritage Open Days.	Organiser: Sue Stallibrass  TRANSPORT: car (public transport extremely difficult)  Sue intends to visit the church (for the first time) on a Heritage Open Day. When the date is confirmed, she can offer to pick up three people at a pre- arranged time from Blundellsands & Crosby train station (Merseyrail, Northern Line).
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### **Forthcoming online talks**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 9.30 – 4.30pm Darganfod – Discovery conference (new archaeology in Wales)** A day of talks organised by the Cambrian Archaeology Association about recent and ongoing projects in Wales including prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, post-medieval and modern topics.

FREE but please **register in advance by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March**  
<https://cambrians.org.uk/darganfod-discovery-conference-saturday-1st-april-2023/>

The **Prehistoric Society** are continuing their online **Global Pasts** series of talks by worldwide specialists. FREE but register for each talk to obtain each link:

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 19.00 (&.00 – 8.30pm)** Prof Rebecca Ackermann and Dr Robyn Pickering **Human evolution research in South Africa: the role of HERI in shaking up our family tree**  
HERI = Human Evolution Research Institute, based at University of Cape Town  
<https://science.uct.ac.za/department-archaeology/human-evolution-research-institute-heri>

FREE talk but register in advance to obtain the link  
<https://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events>

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 5.00- 6.00pm** The next **Society of Antiquaries of London** lecture will be by Anthony (Tony) Brown on **The SedaDNA Revolution in Archaeology? Current Progress and Future Potential**  
NB SedaDNA means ancient DNA (usually written as 'aDNA') found in sediments

FREE but register to obtain zoom link to this hybrid lecture  
<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/the-sedadna-revolution-in-archaeology-current-progress-and-future-potential/>

The **Baron Thyssen Centre for the Study of Ancient Material Religion** hosts a series of monthly online talks. These have two presenters each, with a lot of time for discussion after their talks of ~ 20 minutes each. FREE but register to book a place.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 5.00 – 6.30** has our own **Gina Muskett** (with **Adam DiBattista**) speaking on **Material Religion and Ivory**. Gina's talk will include discussion of items in the collections of the **National Museums Liverpool** and the **University of Liverpool**

You can book a place now!

<https://www.openmaterialreligion.org/events-1/2022/12/7/ivory-online-monday-24th-april-5pm-630pm-uk-time>

**Gresham College's series of expert talks by Prof Ronald Hutton** about pre-Christian religions in Britain has two more talks

**[Finding Britain's Lost Gods \(History of Religion\)](#)**

FREE but register to receive links.

NB see 'Past Talks' section of this bulletin for details of recorded earlier talks in this series

**Wednesday 26 April 2023 6 – 7 pm**

[Finding Lost Gods in Wales](#)

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/wales-gods>

Heads up for June: The last talk in Gresham College's series by Professor Ronald Hutton is on:

**6pm, Weds 7 June 2023, [How Pagan Was Medieval Britain](#)**

FREE but register to receive link

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/medieval-pagan>

### **Past online talks**

**Rethinking Early States: Ancient Egypt, and Beyond.** David Wengrow gave a talk at the Egyptian Museum in Turin that drew on ideas discussed in his recent book with David Graeber, *The Dawn of Everything*, where the authors questioned many well-established ideas in the archaeology/history of early civilisations and beyond.

See: <https://museoegizio.it/en/explore/appointments/rethinking-early-states-ancient-egypt-and-beyond-david-wengrow/>

NB All talks taking place at the Egyptian Museum are streamed live through the Museum's Facebook page and its YouTube channel (direct link to all past and future streams here: <https://www.youtube.com/@museoegizio3657/streams>) and are recorded and available also later on YouTube.

The **Gresham College** series of three lectures by leading experts on **Landscapes of Ancient Britain** took place in February and March are available to watch here:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/ancient-britain>

[Stonehenge: A History](#) Mike Pitts

(Thurs 23 Feb 2023)

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/stonehenge-history>

[Landscapes of Roman Britain](#) Martin Millett

(Weds 15 Mar 2023)

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/roman-landscapes>

[The Medieval Agricultural Revolution: New Evidence](#) Helena Hamerow  
(Thurs 23 Mar 2023)  
<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/agricultural-rev>

Similarly, past talks in Gresham College's series of talks by Ronald Hutton are available here:

### [Finding Britain's Lost Gods \(History of Religion\)](#)

Professor Ronald Hutton

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/lost-gods>

This is the first series of three sets of lectures devoted to the perennial 'others' of the European Christian tradition, those phenomena which have always been present as active forces or cultural memories in Christian Europe and which theological orthodoxy has regarded as suspect. The

first of the phenomena consists of the pre-Christian religions of Europe, defined in Christian tradition as paganism. These were suppressed as religious systems at the time of conversion to Christianity but elements of them survived as major components of literature, art and folklore.

### [Gods of Prehistoric Britain](#)

(Weds 21 Sep 2022)

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/prehistoric-gods>

NB highly recommended!

### [Paganism in Roman Britain](#)

(Weds 7 Dec 2022)

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/paganism-roman>

### [Anglo-Saxon Pagan Gods](#)

(Weds 1 Feb 2023)

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/anglo-saxon-gods>

### [Viking Pagan Gods in Britain](#)

(Weds 8 Mar 2023)

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/viking-gods>

## Other online resources

**Wirral Vikings** <https://www.wirralvikings.org.uk/> not only hold events but also have various resources online including a YouTube channel that has a comprehensive range of videos of demonstrations of crafts, past events etc including ones undertaken by other Viking groups. See <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQy9IRWYfQ1nUBcjb41mMGA>

The **medieval (15<sup>th</sup> century) Newport Ship**, discovered in 2002, has just completed the timber conservation stages (freeze drying etc) and is now ready to be reconstructed. NB the famous Mary Rose warship is 16<sup>th</sup> century. There is a very informative article by the BBC at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-64151535> and the 'Friends of ...' have a website here: <https://www.newportship.org/>

The **Vasa Museum**, Sweden has a ranges of resources about the 17th century warship Vasa, its history and recovery, some of the objects found in and around the wreck, and a virtual visit to the museum. See: [www.vasamuseet.se/en](http://www.vasamuseet.se/en) and <https://www.vasamuseet.se/en/explore/vasa-history>

**Monuments of Great Zimbabwe** (a medieval city at the heart of an extensive African trading empire) can be explored via 3-D models, maps, photos etc at <https://www.zamaniproject.org/site-zimbabwe-Great-Zimbabwe.html>

To accompany their '**Labyrinth**' exhibition (on until 30<sup>th</sup> July) about the **Minoan palace at Knossos, Crete**, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford has provided several online items relating to the excavations, the minotaur's labyrinth etc <https://www.ashmolean.org/exhibition/labyrinth-knossos-myth-reality>

The **Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Yorkshire** regional group publish an online journal every year ('**Forum**') for their members. This year's (the 10<sup>th</sup>) has just come out, and the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (covering activities undertaken in 2020/2021) is now available as an open access publication alongside previous editions at: <http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/forum-archive/>

### **Dates for your diary (mostly in-person events but some may be hybrid)**

**The Viking Society for Northern Research** holds meetings and creates publications and other resources see their website: <https://vsnr.org/about/>

#### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10.30/11.00 (registration) – 5.30pm in-person annual Viking Society Student Conference.**

Conference fee of £10 (cash on the door) includes lunch, teas & bookstall.

Venue: GFlex- Central Teaching Hub, University of Liverpool

Talks: Viking activity in late Medieval Breda (Brabant, Netherlands); The diverse roles of women in Viking encampments; New interpretations of Viking Woodstown (a possible fortified longphort for ships near Waterford); Early Medieval stone sculpture in Nithsdale, Dumfriesshire; Dis/continuity of Wirral churches & parishes in the Viking period; Discovering emotions in Medieval Nordic law.

If interested, contact Clare Downham [downham@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:downham@liverpool.ac.uk) so that numbers and dietary requirements are confirmed.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May all day Council for British Archaeology North-West (CBA NW) Spring Conference Theme: Archaeology and water**

Venue: National Waterways Museum, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 4FW

The call for contributions has just gone out, requesting items on, for instance, underwater archaeology, canals & waterways, industrial water uses, defensive & socio-political uses, wetland archaeology, rivers and coastlines.

This conference was postponed from last autumn. Further details for bookings & a confirmed programme will be available later on:

<https://archaeologynw.wordpress.com/>

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June Chester Heritage Festival**

The theme will be Chester as a persistent place with local, regional, national and transnational connections, and speakers will cover the periods from prehistory to the post-medieval.

Check out their website to see what's on when! The website also provides (in advance) several new digital items associated with the festival

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

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June (tbc) all day Chester Archaeology Society**

A one-day conference, planned for 24 June to coincide with the Chester Heritage Festival.

**15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July The Council for British Archaeology's (CBA's) annual Festival of Archaeology**

this year the festival's theme is **Archaeology and Creativity**.

The call for organisers to register their events has just gone out, and events will be listed when they are confirmed. Please remember to check back closer to July. Meanwhile, you can access **resources created for last year's festival** at the same webpage:

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

**NEW ITEM (in April bulletin)** (With thanks to Heather Beeton for info)

**Wirral Vikings** (aka Wirhalh Skip Felagr - The Wirral Ship Fellowship) will be holding their annual **Viking festival of re-enactments & demonstrations** at three different venues

**Bank Holiday Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May Ashton Park Fair-** featuring the WSF Viking village and warriors

Venue: Ashton Park, Westbourne Rd, West Kirby, CH48 4DQ

Come and see the harsh realities of life for the Vikings and Saxons.

The Viking village (Wic) is a tented encampment where the viking warriors prepare for battle whilst the camp followers and local craftsmen and women show the skills they used to survive everyday life on Hiberno-Norse Wirral.

FREE ENTRY

**Saturday & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June      Heskin Hall Viking Festival**

Venue: Wood Lane, Chorley, PR7 5PA

**Saturday & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> August      Upton Viking Festival.**

Venue: Warwick Park, Upton, Wirral

Come and see the harsh realities of life for Wirral's Hiberno-Norse Vikings & their Saxon neighbours

The Festival consists of Viking re-enactment, Craft stalls and attractions, Children's fair.

FREE ENTRY

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September: Heritage Open Days**

This is the annual festival that sees many heritage sites and venues in UK either open to the public when they are usually not accessible, or open for extra times and/or for special events. Listings of specific events & opening times will go live online in June. See:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

**15th - 17th September 2023 The Society for Church Archaeology Annual Conference 2023: The Church in North West Britain and its Connections**

The society's conference are open to all and anyone interested is welcome to participate.

<https://www.churcharchaeology.org/conferences>

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

[Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) 22nd March 2023