



From the Chair

Throughout Summer and Autumn.

The days are lengthening and socialising is increasing and the Council and Events sub-group has been working hard looking at ways to present archaeology to you over the Summer and Autumn.

Thank you to everyone who replied to our question as to how we move forward during 2021. All the comments were constructive and gave us the opportunity to understand your views including personal concerns. The programming sub-group has looked at all the responses and has some options to present to the main Council this month. I will then be in a position to announce the path we are taking up to the start of 2022 in the June newsletter.

We are continuing our Zoom meetings through the Summer and the May lecture is announced in this newsletter. The Zoom invite will be for a 7.15 start as the social chat before the commencement of the talks at the last meeting was enjoyed by all. What we have decided to do is have a 15 minute “natter time” so if you want to catch up with others log on anytime after 7.15. The formal talk will start at 7.30.

Roy Forshaw

Spring Meetings 2021

Meetings will be held ‘virtually’ via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand.

Thursday 20th May 7.15 p.m (see above) Laurence Hayes, Principal Consultant at RSK. Title t.b.c.

Summary: ‘In 2016 archaeologists from RSK Environment excavated a Bronze and Iron Age field system near Evesham, Worcestershire. Unexpectedly an Early Bronze Age Beaker burial was found within the field system, and as well as the pottery beaker a stone archer’s bracer or wristguard was found. The talk will also cover how the place the bracer was manufactured was worked out.....it wasn’t Worcestershire!’

There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Zoom sessions will last 40 mins; please make sure you log on promptly.
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.

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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4. It's possible to post text comments during Zoom meetings, but we found this quite distracting, so please keep this to a minimum.
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> .

New Calderstones Book

MAS has published a brand new book about the Calderstones: <https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/the-calderstones.html>

Described as: *'the most complex decorated carved megalithic art assemblage in southern Britain'* by George Nash in 2007, the six stones of the Calderstones monuments have fascinated people for centuries. Their story of monumental construction, use and reuse, movement and re-movement, is a fascinating record of people's connections to them. Using historical sources, such as mapping and historic printed illustrations to track their history and modern scientific techniques to explore their art, this book investigates the Calderstones from their neolithic roots 5,000 years ago to their modern conservation in 2018. Exploring their long history reveals how special these stones are!

Buy your copy by contacting the MAS publications secretary via the website: <https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/contact-us.html>
Members of MAS are entitled to a 25% discount, which is £6, plus £2.50 P&P if postage is required.

You can also order online from Museum of Liverpool: <https://shop.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/collections/liverpool-books> or buy at The Reader bookshop at Calderstones Park.

Excavation at Albert Dock

The Museum of Liverpool's archaeology team is leading a community excavation on Piermaster's Green, Royal Albert Dock (adjacent to the Piermaster's House) this summer. The project will investigate the site of two of the four houses which stood on the site, numbers 7 and 8 Albert Parade. These were the homes of dock masters and their families before they were damaged during the Liverpool Blitz of the Second World War. The residences were built in 1852, six years after the opening of the Royal Albert Dock 175 years ago.

Ahead of the dig forensic archaeology students from Liverpool John Moores University have been doing geophysical survey on the site. The students learned a variety of survey techniques on site including resistivity and ground penetrating radar and the preliminary results look promising.

We will be digging with the help of volunteers from the local community on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week from 26 May until 30 July. Find out what we get up to as you pass by on your daily walk, via social media using the hashtag #DockHouseDig, and on the Museum of Liverpool website. We will be sharing what we discover throughout the project and if you have any memories of the houses or the docks we would love to hear those too!

Vanessa Oakden



Blast from the past: Photo ‘competition’

Readers of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA)’s British Archaeology (BA) magazine may have seen an article by Susan Greaney about the excavations led by Geoff Wainwright 50 years ago at the Mount Pleasant henge. A letter in the subsequent BA issue contained a photo of the 1970 digging team. Mike Pitts (BA Editor) has put it up on his blog together with names of some of us (plus some interesting info about the three big prehistoric henge excavations that Wainwright directed: Durrington Walls, Marden & Mount Pleasant).



Apart from myself, MAS members may recognise some other familiar faces including Robina McNeil (sitting on the grass, second from left, long fringe and pale shirt) and George Smith (at the back of the core Wainwright digging team perched on the car that Geoff is leaning on (far left of photo)).

<https://mikepitts.wordpress.com/2021/04/14/do-you-recognise-these-archaeologists>

Do any other MAS members have digging team photos they would like to share so that we can try to guess who is who? It took me a long time to find myself even though I knew I was there! Here’s a clue- I didn’t have grey hair in 1970...

Sue Stallibrass

Online resources

Future events:

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) has a lot of online resources including some upcoming free events (BUT PLEASE BOOK) on place names, coastal erosion and maps of Wales:

<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/>

6 May: Join us for the next in our new series of free online talks, ‘The List of Historic Place Names - four years on!’ by Dr James January-McCann on 6 May @ 5pm.

This talk will be a Welsh-language event with simultaneous translation provided.

<https://ti.to/digital-past/the-list-of-historic-place-names-four-years-on>

12 May: CHERISH eConference Coastal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change (CCHCC). This international conference will showcase the vulnerability of coastal environments to climate change and how these may be impacted by future changes. Papers will cover a range of topics around the theme of understanding and managing coastal heritage under threat.

<https://fitwise.eventsair.com/cmspreview/2021cherish-project-e-conference/programme>

12-14 May: Carto Cymru – The Wales Map Symposium 2021. Held in partnership with the National Library of Wales and the Historic Towns Trust. Surveying the Streets: this year’s symposium will focus on how towns and cities have been mapped through time and how this can help us to understand the history and processes of urban growth.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/l/gcnlw/t-odqyol>

12th May 2021, 16:00-16:45 The medieval ‘agricultural revolution’: A bioarchaeological perspective Prof Helena Hamerow, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford.

The early medieval ‘agricultural revolution’ saw the advent of new, extensive forms of cereal farming that has left a clear mark on the landscape today. This talk presents some of the results of the project ‘Feeding Anglo-Saxon England’ (FeedSax), which addresses an ongoing debate regarding the origins and impact of open field farming in England. Free online talk, but registration required at

https://www.crowdcast.io/e/medieval_agricultural_revolution/register

15th May 2021: Council for British Archaeology North West (CBANW) Spring Meeting to be held online based on the theme of “Archaeology in Lockdown”. Following the AGM, there will be talks by several groups and societies in the area (Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester & Cheshire) talking about the effect lockdown has had in respect to their organisation and what they were able to do in response. As usual, details will be advertised at the last minute, but keep checking the blog at <https://archaeologynorthwest.wordpress.com/> and social media for details.

Twitter @cbanorthwest sorry I have no idea about Facebook!

NB if you are interested in blogging, there is a free course available through the CBANW wordpress website (provided above)

19th – 28th June: Chester Heritage Festival. Save the date and keep checking the website for details of this summer’s online events <https://chester.com/listing/chester-heritage-festival/>

17th July – 1st August: CBA (Council for British Archaeology) Festival of Archaeology

You can sign up to receive information about events or keep checking online for new information

https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/?dm_i=10MV,7BP1V,MNXPP3,TPSC9,1

Recordings of previous online talks and events:

The Cambrian Archaeology Associations’ excellent ‘Darganfod’ day of talks on 10th April is now available as recordings.

Darganfod: celebration of new archaeological research in Wales, held online. Ranged in period: Preseli bluestones & Waun Mawn & Stonehenge stone circles, excavations at Moel y Gaer & Caerau hillforts, GIS of hillforts, Neolithic & Iron Age mortuary practices, Abermagwr Roman fort, Llangorse Viking Age crannog, pre-Norman focal zones, Dodleston castle (Cheshire), 13th Century ceramic aquamaniles

<https://cambrians.org.uk/talks/darganfod-discovery-2021-talks/>

And if you want a full hour of Mike Parker Pearson on Waun Mawr, Preseli bluestones & Stonehenge, the BBC2 programme Stonehenge: The lost circle revealed (broadcast on BBC2 Feb 12th 2021) is available for the next 9 months at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000s5xm/stonehenge-the-lost-circle-revealed>

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – **Botany, trade & empire** – conference recordings

<https://www.kew.org/science/engage/get-involved/conferences/botany-trade-empire>

Cornwall Heritage Trust – **Turf cutting for fuel on Bodmin Moor:** Peter Herring – webinar recording

<https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/turf-cutting-for-fuel-on-bodmin-moor-by-peter-herring-story-cafe-now-available-on-youtube/>

Vernacular Architecture Group: Winter 2021 conference recordings - **Houses and The Hearth Tax in Britain**

<https://www.vag.org.uk/conferences.htm>

Other online resources:

Paleolithic and Mesolithic archaeology: the Pal Network now has a **North Norfolk virtual field trip** created as part of the Pathways to Ancient Britain research project. This is a virtual tour of important Pleistocene deposits on Norfolk coast including Happisburgh Palaeolithic people’s footprints (at ~800,000 – 900,000 years old, they make our Formby footprints look like they were made yesterday!) and a video about the beetle evidence for climate and environment.

The virtual field trip has been created using Google Earth Projects. Within this project you will find text, videos and images, plus links to further resources such as peer-reviewed articles.

<https://www.pabproject.org/research-projects/happisburgh/north-norfolk-coast-virtual-field-trip/>

English Heritage: **Insect pests in historic houses and museums** (poster, new ed.)

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/learn/conservation/science/serpentine/insect-pests-historic-houses-poster.pdf>

Mariner's Mirror podcast – The most important book in **maritime history?** **Lloyds Register**

<https://snr.org.uk/the-mariners-mirror-podcast/the-most-important-book-in-maritime-history-lloyds-register/>

Scotland's Archaeology Strategy: celebrating 5 years

<http://archaeologystrategy.scot/celebrating-five-year-of-scotlands-archaeology-strategy/>

IHR: On history blog – **Recycling and upcycling waste in the late medieval urban economy**

<https://blog.history.ac.uk/2021/02/recycling-and-upcycling-waste-in-the-late-medieval-urban-economy/>

SAHGB blog - **Post-War designed landscapes: 'A green place in which to live and work'**: Landscapes by Sylvia Crowe and Janet Jack

<https://www.sahgb.org.uk/features/postwarlandscape2>

Public Statues and Sculptures Association – **UK Public statues of women database**

<https://pssauk.org/women/>

National Trust – **Medieval archaeology adventures at Fountains Abbey**

<https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/archaeology-pack-3-fountains-abbey.pdf>

V&A – **A-Z of ceramics**

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/a-z-of-ceramics>

Women's Engineering Society – Centenary trail map

<https://www.wes.org.uk/centenary-map>

Sue Stallibrass