



**From the Editor**

Welcome to the latest MAS Bulletin. In this issue, we continue Maurice’s ‘Archaeology is Everywhere’ series , celebrate the recording of 1.5 million finds on the Portable Antiquities Scheme, enjoy some local ‘virtual’ walks courtesy of CITiZAN, review the recent Twitter conference hosted by the Museum of Liverpool and there are a vast number of interesting new links. I must draw your attention to the ‘Britain from Above’ web-site which contains hours of interesting footage.

Maurice has some information below regarding our Autumn Lecture programme, the forthcoming Conference and our AGM. There is also a possibility that we may be able to organise a local fieldtrip soon. In the meantime I hope you are all keeping active and well.

*Dave Roberts*

**MAS meetings and Covid-19**

At the present time it is not possible for indoor meetings to resume. The reopening of the Quaker Meeting House is uncertain and the Government’s rules require further clarification. Instead, the MAS Council is looking at ways of providing virtual meetings. It is proposed that we hold talks starting in October and Mark would like to hear from anyone who can provide, or suggest, a presentation which can be transmitted using readily available digital technology such as Powerpoint, Zoom or Youtube. He can be contacted via his email address [MHAdams@rsk.co.uk](mailto:MHAdams@rsk.co.uk) Mark will be also be organising a local field trip within the guidelines for outdoor meetings.

In common with many similar societies, MAS has a number of members who are in the 70+ age group and who are likely to be vulnerable to complications if infected with the virus. There are also members who may have underlying health conditions which will make it unwise for them to attend meetings. Other members may live with a relative or friend who may be ‘shielding’ and will have to stay at home.

Every member should be aware that there is a need for social distancing and to wear a face mask in confined spaces where distancing is not possible. The function of the mask is to protect both the wearer and people in their vicinity.

The Government’s advice may have changed by the time you read this. The MAS Council will continue to review the advice and guidance as it changes.

The Archaeology in Merseyside Conference is being re-organised with a provisional date of 9th October 2021. The AGM has been postponed and Council is looking at ways of completing the meeting as well as complying with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

*Maurice Handley*

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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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## Archaeology is Everywhere

Place names (including field and street names) are everywhere. They can be useful for the historian and archaeologist. For example, in the Merseyside parish of Eccleston, there is Barrow Field Farm and the Tithe Map records a field nearby named 'Barrow Field' that could possibly be the site of a burial mound. Another farm, recently demolished, is called 'Glass House Farm' and was possibly one of the many glass-making sites in St Helens. According to the *Penguin Dictionary of British Place Names* Burscough, near Ormskirk, means 'wood by the fort' and is now known to be near a Roman fort.

Names can change through time. In last month's bulletin Roy Forshaw wrote about Shaw's Brow becoming William Brown Street when the Museum opened in 1857. On nineteenth century maps, Speakman's Lane in Burscough led to the Scutcher's Arms. Scutching is the process of separating flax fibre from the useful part of the plant and at a later stage the lane's name was changed to Flax Lane.

Our society once visited Buxworth, a village on the Peak Forest Canal where the canal basin retained the slightly amusing original name of Bugsworth. Until 1939 Newton le Willows was known as Newton in Makerfield – the name change is curious since there was already a Newton-le-Willows in North Yorkshire.

Place names have often been transcribed erroneously; Mill Lane in Cronton gets its name from a windmill that stood on the top of Pex Hill. On older maps the mill is marked as Peck's Mill – presumably named after the miller. At some stage a mapmaker recorded the homophone and this has spawned a local myth that it was a place of pixies. Fiddler's Ferry (the name given to the power station near Widnes) is derived from a ferry across the Mersey that it is thought gets its name from a Norman baron with the name 'de Vidler' who held the manor thereabouts. The name became 'Fidler's Ferry' with one 'd' and is sometimes spelt that way. There's another Fiddler's Ferry near Crossens just to the north of Southport – a place of entertainment perhaps.

Pronouncing place names can be challenging. Makerfield is pronounced 'Mackerfield' and we probably all know about Gateacre ('Gataker') and Meols ('Mells'). Welsh place names aren't too difficult if you learn the rules but they can occasionally trip the unwary – Acrefair, a village near Telford's aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal, is pronounced 'Ackra vire'.

The 'ough' in Loughborough (the University town) is sounded in two different ways, so the name is pronounced in Leicestershire as 'Luffbra'. Californians struggle with this name, pronouncing it 'Low burrow' or 'Loch borrow' from the Irish 'Lough'. Australians mangle it completely as 'Looga burrooga'. At least Wirral is straightforward even if some of us are not quite sure where it is.

*Maurice Handley*

## Two Low Tide Trails launched online by CITiZAN in Liverpool Bay

Explore the Albert Dock & the central Liverpool waterfront or New Brighton virtually online, or for real on foot!

CITiZAN, the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network, is an award-winning community-led MOLA project (Museum of London Archaeology). They tackle threats to England's fragile coastal archaeology, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and support from Lloyds Register Foundation, Historic England and the National Trust. Following an earlier, national programme, there is currently a second programme focusing on six Discovery Areas in England: Liverpool Bay, Humberside, Mersea Island (near Colchester, Essex), the East Kent coast, Solent Harbours and South Devon Rivers.



The main website can be accessed at: <https://citizan.org.uk/>

### ***CITiZAN Liverpool Bay Discovery Programme at:***

Each of the six Discovery Areas coordinates activities, events and training sessions but all physical activities are currently on hold during lockdown but you can still get involved with the heritage and archaeology of your local coast! The national programme has self-guided Low Tide Trails (walking trails) within each Discovery area: check out the 'Low Tide Trails' tab on their website <https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/about-low-tide-trails/>. These have been made available online now that we are allowed to leave our homes for non-essential travel or outings. Each trail has an annotated map highlighting places to see on your tour, with a clear illustration of each place of interest as well as information about its nature and history. If you live locally and are currently able to get out and about safely you may wish to follow one of these guided routes in reality. But all of us can follow them virtually ie online, either simply because that is what we prefer to do, or as a prelude to going out on site later and physically following the trail when it is more feasible or convenient. There is also a CITiZAN mobile app for Android and Apple which lets you find out about

sites in your vicinity when you are on the coast in one of the areas (such as Liverpool Bay) where they have been actively recording sites, and you can also learn how to record discoveries yourself. See the main website **Resources** tab which will also take you to an interactive map that you can explore from your sofa.

The Liverpool Bay Discovery Area has two self-guided trails: one around Albert Dock and the central waterfront in Liverpool, and one on and around the front at New Brighton. And if this has whetted your appetite, you can check out the Low Tide Trails in the other Discovery Areas as a ‘virtual visitor’ or to plan for a later visit or holiday in person in that area.

***Liverpool Bay: New Brighton. From smuggling haven to coastal resort.***

<https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/liverpool-bay-new-brighton/>

New Brighton developed from a coastal town, with a notorious history of smuggling and deliberate wrecking, into a booming and popular Victorian resort. The town started to develop as a seaside resort in the 1890s, with the construction of the New Brighton tower and ballroom acting as the catalyst for this. The area became a popular resort for people travelling from the industrial towns and cities to get away from the polluted air. New Brighton struggled to compete with resorts such as Blackpool and Southport and tourism started to steadily decline from the 1970s onwards. Although the area has changed significantly, evidence of the area’s coastal past can still be found and there is a variety of archaeological remains in the area.

This Low Tide Trail is rated as Easy Access and is suitable for all abilities.

***Liverpool Bay: Liverpool. Docks, Liverbirds and Beatles***

<https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/liverpool-bay-liverpool-docks/>

Liverpool was once one of the busiest ports in the world, with ships bringing in goods and people from all over the world. The city prospered as a result of coastal and international trade during the 1700s, much of this associated with the slave trade and trade in goods produced by slaves in plantations. This walk will look at Liverpool’s development and look at the clues in the landscape that help archaeologists trace the development of this unique City.

This virtual Low Tide Trail Centered on Albert Dock and waterfront sites was written by Chris Kolonko (CITiZAN North Community Archaeologist).

*Sue Stallibrass*

**PAS reaches 1.5 million finds**

On 9<sup>th</sup> July this year, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) reached the milestone of recording its 1.5 millionth find which took the form of a lead papal bulla from Shropshire (HESH-6359C4). As such, this is an opportune time to look briefly at the archaeology of Merseyside through a PAS perspective.

Since the introduction of the PAS in 1997, 668 finds have been reported from Merseyside. From the five metropolitan boroughs of Merseyside: Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral. Wirral presents the largest volume of finds with 323 recorded to date. The table below presents the number of finds recorded from each broad period and demonstrates the Roman and Post Medieval periods as being the most abundant.

	<i>Knowsley</i>	<i>Liverpool</i>	<i>Sefton</i>	<i>St. Helens</i>	<i>Wirral</i>
Prehistory	3		2	11	23
Iron Age	1		1	1	2
Roman	3	3	28	9	143
Early Medieval			5		1
Medieval	16	12	38	16	67
Post Medieval	14	33	79	43	72
Modern	1		8	6	5
Unknown	2	5	5		10
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>323</b>

*Table 1: Number of finds recorded from each metropolitan borough presented by broad period.*

Although the number of finds reported from Merseyside is relatively small compared to the numbers from neighbouring counties such as Cheshire, Merseyside has still produced a number of insightful chance finds.

**LVPL-CD9D36**

A palstave from Sefton, dating to the middle Bronze Age c.1500-1300 BC. This is one of two palstaves reported from Merseyside (LVPL-F9D407), but the irregular form of this Sefton example is particularly interesting. The uneven septum suggests it may have been a 'practice' piece and was cast by an inexperienced individual still learning the techniques. However, it could possibly simply be a miscast piece.



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**LVPL-3A24F**

A mostly complete ceramic vessel from the Wirral dating to the Roman period c.AD 43-410. This vessel was found during a beach comb near Leasowe. Vessels are uncommon additions to the PAS database and are rarely found in such a complete condition. The finder kindly donated it to the Museum of Liverpool (MOL.2018.10.1).



© Fred Firth Photography

**LVPL-004154**

A gold half-noble of Henry IV (r. AD 1399-1413) from St. Helens dated to AD 1412-1413. This is an exceptionally rare find and to date is the only gold half-noble of Henry IV identified on the PAS database. In context, there are over 77,000 medieval coins on the database. This coin is of particular interest because it has no annulet next to the trefoil on the side of the ship which suggests it to be a variant type.



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### LVPL-5D58CD

A ceramic tyg (vessel) from Rainford, St. Helens dated to c.AD 1600-1700. The tyg was a chance discovery from a garden and sparked the founding of a new project, 'Rainford's Roots', a community excavation to explore the Post Medieval pottery and clay pipe manufacturing industries in the area. The project was jointly led by the Museum of Liverpool and Merseyside Archaeological Society. The tyg was donated to the Museum of Liverpool and is part of the museum's collection on Rainford (MOL.2013.127).



It will be interesting to see what the next 1.5 million finds will bring us from Merseyside.

Heather Beeton – Finds Liaison Officer Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside

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## Museum of Liverpool

### A Review of the Museum of Liverpool's Second Archaeology Twitter Conference

On Thursday the 16th of July as part of the Council for British Archaeology's digital Festival of Archaeology, the Museum of Liverpool's Twitter account @MuseumLiverpool hosted a Twitter conference. The theme of the conference was climate, environment and archaeology.

The conference began with a welcome from the Museum of Archaeology and a link to the programme and an introduction to the first speaker. The day was divided into three themes. The first theme focused on past climates and evidence for them. The first contributors were Dr Hannah Fluck and Dr Meredith Wiggins of @HistoricEngland speaking about 'Why heritage is essential to addressing the climate crisis' tweeting from the account of Dr Fluck @hannahfluck. This was followed by a Twitter talk from the Museum of Liverpool's Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology, Ron Cowell, who tweeted from the Museum's account. The talk focused on coastal sites in Merseyside and how coastal changes affected groups and settlements during Prehistory. Sticking with the theme of rivers, the next talk was from Dr Courtney Nimura and Professor Rick Schulting from the University of Oxford's School of Archaeology with Professor Fraser Sturt of the University of Southampton with their paper: 'Ebb & Flow: Exploring rivers in later prehistoric Britain' from the account of @FSturt. The talk concluded by highlighting their new project, Ebb & Flow: Exploring rivers in later prehistoric Britain <https://ebbandflow.web.ox.ac.uk>.

The next theme of the conference focused on archaeological preservation and decay. The first talk of this theme was from CITIZAN @CITiZan1 with Andy Shermant and Chris Kolonko of Museum of London Archaeology discussing their fascinating project exploring local coastal archaeology in 'recording archaeology exposed by the shifting sands of climate change'. This was followed with a talk from Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Manchester, Dr Melanie Giles @MelanieCGiles. The paper, 'Crossing the bog: an archaeological journey', was a poetic look at some of the environments created by north west peatlands. A very different look at an archaeological site came next with a look at archaeology as an environment for microbial life with the potential to help the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine's Swab and Send team develop new antibiotics. It was tweeted by Dr Adam Roberts



**Why heritage matters**

- It is affected by climate change
- It can play a role in contextualising climate change
- It can contribute to climate mitigation
- It can play a role in adaptation to new challenges
- It can play a role in communication, engaging and empowering people

Supporting images include: a landscape with a river and hills (captioned 'Happisburgh, Cromer Forest Bed formation, Photo H. Fluck'), a 'FLOOD LEVEL' sign, a book cover 'THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE OLD HOMES', a Historic England poster 'A Prehistoric Study of Flood Vulnerability at Holesby Old Mill and Aqueduct', and a flooded street scene.

Slide from Dr Hannah Fluck & Dr Meredith Wiggins' talk 'Why heritage is essential to addressing the climate crisis'

@GCAGATGCAATG and focused on the swabs taken from the Oakes Street excavation as part of the Galkoffs and the Secret Life of Pembroke Place project.

The final theme of the day, museums and climate change, began with a speaker from National Museums Ireland, Siobhan Pierce @PierceSiobhan. The talk 'If things could talk about Sustainability!' focused on some fabulous work to engage teenagers in skills of curatorship. This was followed by the final talk of the day from the youth panel of Kids in Museums @kidsinmuseums. 'How can museums use their archaeological collections to help us learn about the impact of climate change?' focused on their project Objects Declare Emergency, a virtual collection of objects on Instagram which all contribute to the story of the climate crisis.

Questions and discussion followed before closing remarks and thanks from the Museum of Liverpool. To catch up on the conference and read through the papers visit Twitter and search for the hashtag #ArchMoL20. Tweets can be read with or without having a Twitter account. #ArchMoL20 was a fascinating conference with a wide range of papers and speakers which highlighted the varied and important relationship between archaeology, climate and the environment.

*Vanessa Oakden*

## **On-Line Resources**

### **Historic England**

Historic England's Aerial Survey department has a searchable online archive called **Britain from Above**. There are 82,000 photos from England, 6,000 from Scotland and 4,000 from Wales (plus some from other countries).

<https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en>

### **Lead production in the Roman Peak District**

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/white-peak-dark-landscape-ongoing-study-impact-lead-production-had-formation-militarised-and>

### **Heritage and the Planning system**

<https://medium.com/@paulbelford/removing-archaeology-and-heritage-protection-from-the-planning-system-will-make-society-poorer-ff7359a9cf39>

### **Children – mixture of education and just for fun links**

### **BBC – Tiny Happy People – simple activities and play ideas for pre-schoolers**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

### **CBA Festival of Archaeology**

Be part of the Great British Archaeology Comic Book - submissions deadline 6 September 2020

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/blog/be-part-great-british-archaeology-comic-book-1595154384>

### **Layers of London – My Family History, summer project**

<https://www.layersoflondon.org/volunteering/my-family-history>

### **Archaeology/Architecture/History**

### **ALGAO**

Impact of Covid-19 on Local Authority Archaeology services – report

<https://www.algao.org.uk/news/impact-covid-19-local-authority-archaeology-services#>

**Home Front Legacy – project archive (ADS)**

[https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/hfl\\_he\\_2020/](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/hfl_he_2020/)

**Bristol Historical Databases Project**

<https://bristoldatabases.wordpress.com/datasets/>

**The Rose Playhouse, Southwark – ‘virtual’ tour**

<https://vimeo.com/331090925>

**Museum of London**

Uptown talks – series of short talks on areas of London

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcUgvdvJPCkCUX6-bQgsXwa4-JarW25vA&app=desktop>

**Recordings of the CBA Festival of Archaeology 2020 presentations**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0jz2K7enTbQ8KrADI4D4TGURQYmZYw6R>

*Sue Stallibrass*