



From the Chair

AGM alternatives.

We are still in strange times with many now inoculated against covid but infection rates may still be rising. MAS Council had anticipated that the relaxing of covid restrictions would have reflected the decrease in infections and hospital admissions. As I write this is uncertain.

What we want to avoid is a poor turnout at the Quaker Meeting House for the AGM due to concerns about coming into Liverpool. MAS Council after discussion have prepared for the possibility of holding the AGM virtually again but we want you to be involved with the decision. As the AGM is in September we are going to have an electronic vote at the August MAS zoom meeting which will give us an instant result as to whether we hold a meeting in person or via Zoom. Just before Rob’s talk on Norton Priory you will have a chance to vote via an app to determine how the AGM will take place. The results will appear straight away so those attending will know the outcome on the night.

The voting questions have not been finalised yet but they will be along the lines of **do you wish to attend the AGM in person Yes or No.**

Hope to see you all virtually at the next meeting.

Roy Forshaw

Summer Meetings 2021

19th August 7.15 p.m. via Zoom. ‘The Archaeology of Norton Priory’. *Rob Philpott.*
An introduction to work carried out at Norton Priory which will be followed by a site visit on 25th September.

Future planned events:

Date	Speaker/ Leader	Title	Venue
16 September	Vanessa Oakden	AGM. ‘The Dock House Dig - Piermaster’s Green Community Archaeology Project’	Quaker Meeting House TBC following a vote at the August meeting
25 September	Rob Philpott	Site Visit. Details in next Newsletter	Norton Priory Excavation

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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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For those meetings held ‘virtually’ via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand. There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Talks will last 40 mins starting at 7.30. You will be able to log on from 7.15.
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.
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> .

Hilbre Island Visit. Tuesday 17th August 2021.

We have had a good response for the Hilbre Island visit and those who have contacted me will receive meeting up information nearer the time. It is not too late to book and the walk details are in the previous newsletter. Please e mail me at roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk if you wish to book.

Please remember before you book that you will need to be able to walk there and back at a reasonable pace over the sands and rocky shoreline which is a combined distance of approximately four miles. There are also steps up and down the cliffs to negotiate and some slippery surfaces.

Looking forward to meeting up with those who have booked.

Roy Forshaw

Farewell Piermaster’s Green



The Piermaster’s Green excavation came to an end on 30 July. It’s been a fantastic opportunity for the MoL archaeology team to work with local people and students from John Moores University to uncover the remains of houses which were built in 1852 and demolished after Second World War bomb damage.

We have revealed parts of number 7, Albert Parade – the Albert Dock Superintendent’s House. We know from Jessie Hartley’s drawings of it that it was a seven bedroomed home. The archaeology has added detail about the fancy tiled floor in the hallway, the objects used by the people who lived there, and the quality of construction.



We have also excavated a section of number 8, Albert Parade, one of two Dockmaster’s Houses (along with number 10). The Piermaster’s House is Number 9, Albert Parade. At 8, Albert Parade we’ve discovered the back wall of the house with a coal chute down in to a rubble-filled cellar. Adjacent to the wall is a yard surface, well, actually, three – a layer of concrete, with a layer of slabs below, and a layer of cement from an earlier slabbed surface below that. Finds here include clay tobacco pipes, pottery, decorated door tile and even some moulded plaster.

The dig in numbers:

- 42 VOLUNTEERS
- 447m2 EXCAVATED
- 27 YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS TRY DIGGING
- 79 TRAYS OF FINDS
- 3031 VISITORS ENGAGED IN ARCHAEOLOGY
- 7 WALLS EXCAVATED
- 308 PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN
- 14-31°C TEMPERATURE RANGE
- AND A TENTH BIRTHDAY!

Comments on the dig:

- “really inspiring for kids walking around” – member of the public
- “I’ll add this to my new skills, pushing a wheelbarrow is really empowering” – dig volunteer
- “thank you for involving the local residents, it’s been a real honour to be involved” – dig volunteer
- “it’s right boss” – member of the public

Community archaeology is:

- sharing stories
- collecting evidence
- realising dreams
- sharing skills
- creating art
- searching for antibiotics
- inspiring the next generation
- understanding our past
- creating memorable experiences

Liz Stewart

Piermaster’s Green Dig and Low Tide Trail

MAS teamed up with the Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society on the 13th of July for a tour of the Piermaster’s Green Dig and Low Tide Trail with CITIZAN North. Following a Museum of Liverpool talk at the dig site and a look at the finds two groups enjoyed exploring the Waterfront with CITIZAN observing what many of us had previously walked passed without noticing! The day was enjoyed by six MAS and five MIHS members.

Roy Forshaw



Shrapnel impact marks on the Merseyside Maritime Museum

The Wirral History and Heritage Association Heritage Open Days 10-19th September 2021

The Wirral History and Heritage Association has provided a link to their Heritage Open Days page to enable a pdf version for download or printing, here: <https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar>

Wirral Heritage Open Days is a chance for everyone to enjoy the peninsula’s outstanding heritage. Locally, the Festival has been organised by the Wirral History and Heritage Association since 2009. Covid 19 has changed the nature of the offer but it is still possible to participate in a series of free events or to take part in a virtual tour of a heritage site. In England the programme is co-ordinated by the National Trust with support from the People’s Postcode Lottery.

On-line Resources

Upcoming on-line talks:

Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership has two new talks coming up and recordings of all previous talks are available online <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Site/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership/Category/westmorland-dales-heritage-talks>
Live talks are free, but please register in advance in order to receive the zoom access link (recordings of past talks can be accessed directly from the website)

Wednesday 4th August at 3pm **Little Asby Common- From Roundhouse to Long House** (survey & proposed excavation of prehistoric to early Medieval settlement). Jamie Quartermaine

Wednesday 1st September at 3pm **Archaeological Test Pitting in the Village of Ravenstonedale**. Douglas Mitchum

Wirral Heritage Open Days includes an online talk about **Hooton Hall & Hooton Hangars**. The talk will be repeated every evening from Friday 10th – Weds 15th Sept. Talk starts at 7.00pm for 45 mins followed by Q & A. Includes 3-D imaging and ‘fly through’ and the direct zoom link & password are provided on the website

<https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-events-c-h/hooton-park-hall-and-hangars>

The **Liverpool and Manchester Railway Trust** have created a new film on the **Opening of the First Passenger Railway** (15th Sept 1830) specially for the 2021 Heritage Open Days using five years of new research. It will be available online each day from Weds 15th – Sunday 19th Sept. No booking required and the links will be posted on the website from Friday 10th Sept onwards (so remember to check back if you want to access the link).

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/the-day-the-world-became-smaller-the-opening-of-the-liverpool-and-mancheste>

The Society of Antiquaries of London continue to make their public lectures available online. More are scheduled (note different lunchtime and evening times) for:

Tuesday 14th September 1 – 2pm **A Monstrous Regiment of Women: Queenship in Early Modern England** by Professor Susan Doran

Tuesday 5th October 1 - 2pm **Fighting Caesar: Britons in Gaul and Gauls in Britain in Caesar’s Battle for Gaul** by Andrew Fitzpatrick

Thursday 7th October 5-6pm **Recent fieldwork on hillforts and other earthworks in Wales** by Paul Belford

Monday 11th October 6 – 7pm (joint Soc Ant London & Soc Ant Scotland) **Searching for the ice age pioneers: Excavations at Rubha Port an t-Seilich, Isle of Islay, Scotland** Steve Mithen

Register before-hand in order to receive the link to the live talk

NB there are lots more new talks in October & onwards to look forward to: prehistoric Malta, coins & money, English landscapes & identities, the first pharaohs of Egypt, Khotan kingdom on the Silk Road...

Lots of recordings of interesting past talks are also available at the same site: <https://www.sal.org.uk/events/>

Completely new series of online talks on Tuesdays and Thursdays (+ Caroline Pudney on **Britain’s western frontier** on Friday 10th Sept) at 5.30 from July 20th – September 30th. Organised by York St John University. Inspired by British Museum’s Nero exhibition and wider issues of **Imperial Power in the Roman World**

See full programme & abstracts and book for individual talks (free). NB booking is being done sequentially so if you are interested in one of the later talks, you may need to check the website to find when booking opens

<https://blog.yorks.ac.uk/romanworld/programme-of-events/>

The Yorkshire Museum has events to coincide with their **‘Richard III: Coming Home’** exhibition. These digital talks and lectures run between now and the end of October. They are a mix of Archaeology, History and Art History and they concentrate on the late fifteenth century, exploring Richard’s connections to the city of York and the region. The talks are all free and start at 4.30pm on Thursdays. Further details can be found at the exhibition webpage here:

<https://www.yorkshirerosemuseum.org.uk/exhibition/richard-iii-coming-home/>

The next in the **Roman Finds Group’s** series of **Zoom in on Roman finds Seminars** is to be held on Thursday 9th September, entitled **Rubbish or Ritual in Roman Rivers**. The evening will be chaired by Nicola Hembrey with talks by Hella Eckardt, Philippa Walton and Stefanie Hoss. The event is available for booking on the website.

<https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/events/50/Zoom+in+on+Roman+finds%3A+Rubbish+or+Ritual+in+Roman+Rivers>

Recorded talks (in addition to Westmorland Dales & Society of Antiquaries of London)

If you missed either of the **Roman Finds Group's** recent conferences (hosted online by Glasgow and Exeter universities) you can now see many of the talks on their website:

Glasgow: <https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/video+presentations+from+the+2020+roman+finds+group+conference>

Exeter: <https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/2021+roman+finds+group+conference>

CBA Yorkshire Video Archive Update (CBA = Council for British Archaeology)

All the current videos for the Fireside Chats since November are now uploaded to the CBA Yorkshire website, together with the 2020 Autumn Showcase presentations and some excellent videos from the Bedale Archaeology and History Society. In total we now have almost thirty videos, all of which are *free to view* by members and *others with an interest in community archaeology and local history*

<http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/videos/>

Online resources

Roman Finds Group There are also **34 short films** on the website about different types of Roman Finds. Presented by experts, these films cover aspects of domestic, personal, military and work life.

<https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/roman+finds+group+films>

Virtual tour of the Vatican

<https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>

Virtual tours of Venice

This is from the perspective of riding in a Gondola. It is a 360 virtual reality tour. You just have to move the hand around and it moves the image around. You can also close in and expand out. It is interesting in that you can see how Venice is sinking by where the water line is at all the doors. The steps are underwater...

<https://photo360tours.com/tour/venice/venice-rialto-bridge-grand-canal-virtual-reality-tour-360.html?s=pano58000>

This is also from a Gondola, but it is a 360 video from YouTube

<https://www.thetravelmagazine.net/a-virtual-tour-of-venice-in-all-her-romantic-glory-la-serenissima.html>

Prehistoric animal carvings, thought to be between 4,000 and 5,000-years-old, (Neolithic or Early Bronze Age) have been discovered for the first time in Scotland hidden inside Dunchraigaig Cairn in Kilmartin Glen

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/prehistoric-animal-carvings-discovered-for-the-first-time-in-scotland/> with a link to a YouTube short video

The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company has lots of information about the boat, excavation, reconstruction work, and a short CGI video at

<https://www.nationalhistoricalships.org.uk/shipshape/sutton-hoo-ships-company>

King George III Topographical & maritime collections. Maps, etchings, watercolours. Mainly later 18th Century. Whole of England plus some colonies, recently digitised and made available online via Flickr

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/king-george-iii#>

Canterbury Cathedral stained glass You may have seen news about **new dating** of windows using portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF). Ian Freestone specialises in the chemical compositions of glass and has several academic papers publicly available on his Academia page at <https://ucl.academia.edu/IanFreestone> including the recent Canterbury Cathedral study with Laura Adlington & Léonie Seliger. This article is interesting for its detective work and the images, whether or not you are also interested in the scientific aspects.

NB Online Academic papers on Academia. These are free to access. You can read online for free or you can download the pdf file if you register (for free). You do not need to have papers to upload yourself. You will probably be asked if you want to download a package of papers- that is a subscription service not free! Just go for the one you want. <https://support.academia.edu/hc/en-us/articles/360043939793-Are-Papers-on-Academia-Free->

'How to do it' video:

Bucket flotation and wet sieving of archaeological sediment samples (NB this introductory video, which focuses on the recovery of charred plant remains, was produced by a German university using a local site. UK standards are 40-60 litres per sample ie much bigger than this video uses) and we rarely have such amenable sandy soils! Impressive use of solar panels to directly power the equipment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVNEAc-82Kc>

UK environmental sampling guidelines can be found on the Historic England website

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/archaeological-science/environmental-archaeology/>

Other guidance is available!

Recent TV programmes ongoing/available on catch-up

NEW SERIES: **Walking Tudor Britain** presented by Suzannah Lipscombe on 5 Select screening 9 – 10pm Tuesdays. NB I think the last (4th) episode is 3rd August, but they go straight onto the online site.

<https://www.channel5.com/show/walking-tudor-britain/>

RECORDINGS:

Also available on 5 Select are six episodes with Dan Jones **Walking Britain's Roman Roads**

<https://www.channel5.com/show/walking-britains-roman-roads/>

And three series of four episodes each with Rob Bell **Walking Britain's Lost Railways** each one focusing on a different geographical area ie East Midlands, Cotswolds, North Devon, Scotland, Edinburgh.

<https://www.channel5.com/show/walking-britains-lost-railways/>

BBC4 **The Art of Persia** presented by Samira Ahmed (three episodes) (available for 11 months)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000k48j/art-of-persia>

WILL DISAPPEAR SOON FROM WEBSITE: BBC4 **Treasures of Ancient Greece** presented by Alastair Sooke (three episodes)

First episode expires sometime on 9th August

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b05qnd92/treasures-of-ancient-greece>

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This annual national event, held in early September, has a range of activities including access to some buildings that are not usually open to the public. You can search the national website for all events (and focus on locations where you live or places you might like to visit). <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Here's just a couple of examples:

All Saints Church, Childwall, Liverpool: the church, tower and churchyard will be open on Saturday 18th Sept from 10 – 4 and on Sunday 19th Sept from 2 – 4. This year there are no guided tours but there will be an introductory video to view and then you can explore, with stewards on hand.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/all-saints-church-childwall>

Wirral History & Heritage Association are organising a series of events (walks, visits, & open days) from Friday 10th – Sunday 19th Sept, but please check each one as some may be cancelled due to Covid. Besides several open-for-the-day buildings, there are lots of activities to choose from: visit West Kirby Museum, 'behind the scenes' at Wirral Archives in Birkenhead, New Ferry Butterfly Park, New Brighton Heritage & Information Centre, the traditional apple orchard at Brimstage Hall, or the Bidston Community Archaeology group; go on an industrial heritage walk at Woodside, or Birkenhead Park Heritage walk, Port Sunlight Edible Heritage walking tour (!), Rock Ferry Rock Park, Hoylake, Woodchurch... there's loads! Many activities are one-off events so check the times and dates and any booking details.

<https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar>

Sue Stallibrass