



### From the Editor

Welcome to the October Newsletter. Thanks to Maurice for producing the excellent September issue. We are living under difficult times but the Council continues to keep the Society functioning to the best of its ability.

Although we have no features in this issue, the Bulletin contains important information which we hope will be of interest to members. We are now planning our AGM which will take place 'virtually' on Thursday 17th December. We hope as many members as possible will attend. Below, there is a list of nominations for 2021 which we have received from the Council. Further nominations are invited. On Thursday 19th November we have our second lecture of the year via 'Zoom'. The first lecture was a great success so we are looking forward to a good turnout.

The Council are meeting again on 11th November when it will finalise the arrangements for the AGM. The AGM papers will be issued to everyone at the end of the month. We will also discuss some new ideas that we have for the Newsletter. If anyone wishes to contribute an article, perhaps an item on private research or a short report on a site of interest that you have discovered, which you would like to be included in a future issue then please get in touch.

### Nominations for 2020-21 received from MAS Council

#### *MAS Council 2020-21: Current nominations Officers:*

Hon. Chair: Roy Forshaw

Hon. Secretary: Liz Stewart

Hon. Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Dave Roberts

#### *Council Members:*

Mark Adams (Events Organiser), Ben Croxford, Maurice Handley (Past Chair), Vanessa Oakden (Membership Secretary), Rob Philpott, Samantha Rowe, David Scott, Sue Stallibrass

If there are any further nominations for Council please forward them, with the name of a proposer and seconder, to Vanessa Oakden via e-mail (address aside) or post to: 24 Rushton Avenue, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside WA12 0EN. Nominations should be received by 19th November.

### Margaret Cragg

Warren and John Kern were very sorry to hear the surprise news and would like to convey their condolences to Neville King. Margaret & Neville regularly attended both MAS & Liverpool History Society meetings. They were very approachable and knowledgeable and good conversationalists. **RIP MARGARET.**

*John Kern*

### *Merseyside Archaeological Society*

*Hon Chair:*

*Maurice Handley*

*Hon Secretary:*

*Liz Stewart*

*Membership Secretary:*

*Vanessa Oakden*

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*Hon Treasurer & Newsletter Editor:*

*Dave Roberts*

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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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## Autumn Meetings 2020

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

### Programme

**Thursday 19 November 7.30PM** Mark Adams 'Capstans, Winches and Walls- Industrial Archaeology at Princes Dock'.

Keeping up the industrial theme this talk will cover a (currently) ongoing watching brief at Princes Half-Tide Dock.

**Thursday 17 December 7.30PM** Maurice Handley *AGM & Christmas Quiz*

Those without access to the internet will be able to submit a postal vote. This will be followed by Maurice's now traditional Christmas Quiz, though you will unfortunately have to supply your own mince pies and refreshments.

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.
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.

There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>

Hopefully this will work, though we are expecting the usual technical glitches on the first couple of sessions so please be patient with us. We're trialling it with talks by members whilst we find out how it works, but if it's successful we will be inviting our usual diverse range of speakers and (almost) normal service will resume.

## Archaeology is Everywhere

It was good to see so many faces at our first Zoom lecture on October 15th and no need for social distancing. It will take a while for members to get used to using the technology and there's bound to be a glitch now and then. It was heartening to see people using Zoom for the first time and doing so well. During the talk, I mentioned the proposals for Bramley Moore Dock and Pumphouse to be redeveloped as a soccer stadium. You can read more about the Bramley Moore Dock on the Historic England website:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/everton-fc-new-stadium/>

Also, a question was asked about 'Manillas' and I confess that I mistakenly thought they were worn around the neck. They are copper bracelets which acted as a form of currency in West Africa and were used to buy slaves during the slave trade era.

In February 2019 Steve Baldwin gave a talk 'The Fort in the Wood - Lancashire's Lost Roman Fort' about the Roman Fort at Burscough. *British Archaeology*, the magazine published by the Council for British Archaeology, reported in its latest edition that the fort has now been scheduled (i.e. given legal protection). Archeologists have identified roads, ramparts, a gateway with double towers and stone buildings. Trial excavations revealed a large stone-buttressed building typical of a Roman granary.

Covid has meant that many of us are restricted and in some cases confined to home. We rely on memories of visits, travels and experiences to keep our minds active. Our first interest in archaeology may have been stimulated by an enthusiastic parent, a Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC), watching Time Team, participating in a community dig, attending an adult ed' course or a personal experience. In the 1970s I started to walk the Dorset coast path and as well as my interest in geology it fostered a latent interest in archaeology. There were hill forts, Roman sites, military installations, water mills, castles, tumuli and strip lynchets. It was the last of these that stuck in my mind as at first I thought they were geological features but they are medieval cultivation terraces.

I hadn't anticipated being in the Chair beyond April 2020 but the postponement of the AGM has meant I continued in post. MAS plans to have a virtual AGM in December so hopefully afterwards I can sit back and take stock. I've steadfastly avoided *Twitter* and *Facebook*. However I've realised that I'm missing out on some really interesting archaeological news and information particularly that produced by the Museum of Liverpool, so I've now succumbed and submitted my personal details to Zuckerberg's empire.

*Maurice Handley*

## **Museum of Liverpool**

The Museum of Liverpool has a new Medieval story map on its website. Please go to:

<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/7604c2e12af415f14ca9aa82682186bd/medieval-liverpool/index.html> to investigate.

## **On-Line Resources**

Another bumper bundle of links courtesy of Sue:

### ***BBC TV programmes***

\*As well as the new (first) series of three programmes about sites on the HS2 rail route advertised in the previous bulletin ie **Britain's Biggest Dig** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mmrf> there are several more that you may like to catch up on.

\*BBC 4's four episodes of **Inside Museums** included St Fagan's Museum, Wales: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000ngbs/inside-museums-series-1-1-st-fagans-national-museum-of-history>

\*Another new series **Inside Culture with Mary Beard** included episode 4/5 about the British Museum

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000mz1w/inside-culture-with-mary-beard>

\*And yet more: a series of three programmes on BBC 4 **The Secret History of Writing** (from hieroglyphs to emojis)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mtml>

\*Apologies if early episodes are no longer available for some of these series (when will BBC have catch up for more than one month!)

**Scotland from the Sky** started a new (previously on BBC Scotland) 3-part second series on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm BBC2.

Episode 1 focused on coasts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0004bnc>

Channel 4 has an ongoing series called **Bone Detectives**, hosted by Tori Herridge on Saturday evenings. I am not sure if these are repeats, new, or updates, but Episode 3 is about Norton Priory, focusing on someone buried in a high status location

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/bone-detectives-britains-buried-secrets/episode-guide>

and there are numerous repeats of old programmes on Yesterday (Freeview 25) and 5 Select (Freeview 54) and BBC 4 (Freeview 106) other good channels to try are the Smithsonian (Freeview 56) and PBS America (Freeview 91).

NB Sky Arts has recently become Freeview11 (you may need to retune your TV- use the remote control: Menu>Settings> Autotune usually works)

### ***Online talks***

**Society of Antiquaries online lecture** These appear to be free and open to the public. <https://www.sal.org.uk/events/>

And if you are interested in the **Early Medieval** period, there is an excellent on-going series of 10 project talks based on the excavations etc at **Rendelsham**, Suffolk. The talks are delivered live, and are also recorded and made available afterwards. You

need to book (free) for individual talks. ‘After 12 years of archaeological investigation, we have identified the site of the early **East Anglian royal settlement at Rendlesham**, first mentioned in the 7th century by Bede in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People.’ <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham-behind-the-scenes>

The Halton with Aughton Heritage Group have been investigating the 19<sup>th</sup> C engineering **Halton Mill** near Lancaster and will be uploading a series of Youtube videos here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcI3-q0f1SgR5VLuJ2A5FAA>

The Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University is holding a live online question and answer session, on Saturday 7 November, 2-3.30pm, with a panel of speakers who have contributed to the **Halton Mill** filmed presentations. The online event has a £5 booking fee but the YouTube films are free. You are encouraged to watch the filmed presentations in advance, but they will also be available online for an extended period after the live event.

Booking for talks at:

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/regional-heritage-centre/events/uncovering-halton-mill-the-last-industrial-site-on-the-lune>

### *Online resources*

The contents of Phase 1 and 2 of Early English Books On-Line are now freely available. Until recently access to the contents of this database were by subscription only. <https://www.english-corpora.org/eebo/>

British Library **Medieval Manuscript** blog – Heritage made digital: Tudor and Stuart manuscripts go online at <https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2020/09/heritage-made-digital-tudor-and-stuart-manuscripts-go-online.html>

The **Offa’s Dyke** Collaboratory (A Research Network for Offa’s Dyke, Wat’s Dyke and Early Medieval Western Britain) has been very active looking at early medieval linear boundaries. Access to blogs, online events, and the open access journal is here: <https://offaswatsdyke.wordpress.com/>

Google Arts & Culture and the CCT – **The Jesse Window**, St Mary’s Church, Shrewsbury

[https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-jesse-window/PwJiTi\\_2Kfa3Iw](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-jesse-window/PwJiTi_2Kfa3Iw)

PlosOne – The **dietary impact of the Norman Conquest**: a multiproxy archaeological investigation of Oxford, UK <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0235005>

DigVentures – **Lindisfarne** before and after the **Viking raids**: aerial 3D flyby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8-yLvOsM1g>

The Pre-History Guys – Interview with Tess Machling: **Torcs, Prehistoric society** and chocolate <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LN4a1Lso9WQ>

BBC – You’re Dead to Me [podcast] – **Neanderthals**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0853185>

Dr Allan Chapman – Fun with **medieval science**, find out what was hidden under the Westgate Shopping Centre in Oxford <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDv-syRpF0s>

The Conversation – Uncovered: the **WW2 ‘Scallywag Bunkers’** that were Britain’s last-ditch line of defence <https://theconversation.com/uncovered-the-ww2-scallywag-bunkers-that-were-britains-last-ditch-line-of-defence-140031>

History Collections – Paper to pixels: digitising **Lloyd’s Register’s historic ship** plan and survey report collection [blog post] <https://historycollections.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2020/10/08/paper-to-pixels-digitising-lloyds-registers-historic-ship-plan-and-survey-report/>

And bringing things up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: the **M6 celebrates 50 years** for the Lancaster to Penrith section with aerial photos from the John Laing Construction Company collection <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-54664515> and the collection itself (of the whole M6 route) is here:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/results/?searchType=HE+Archive+New&search=M6&filteroption=images&page=1>