



Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 9/2021

Registered Charity No 510831

From the Chair

The AGM went without any hitches and Vanessa Oakden gave a splendid presentation on the success of the Pier Masters Green excavation. Thank you to all who attended and made the meeting a success.

The business meeting resulted in a new look to the council with the following in post:

Chair - Roy Forshaw	Web site manager – Ben Croxford
Secretary - Heather Beeton	Events Coordinator - Sue Stallibrass
Treasurer – Dave Roberts	Mark Adams
Past Chair – Maurice Handley	Ann Gemmell
Newsletter Editor – Samantha Rowe	Rob Philpott
Membership Secretary – Vanessa Oakden	Liz Stewart

For those who were not able to attend the AGM we confirmed that we will be continuing zoom lectures until the new year with an intention of having our first meeting at the Quaker Meeting House in February. This avoids the busy Christmas evening and January periods in the city centre often during bad weather.

Sue Stallibrass puts in a lot of work identifying links to third party websites, virtual lectures, and recorded lectures. As the newsletter will be shortly returning to a quarterly issue we are asking if you find the links useful or with the gradual return to meetings in person Sue can devote her time to other things. Will you e mail me if you still would like the information on web links.

This is the last newsletter Dave Roberts will be producing as he is handing over editorship to Sam Rowe. Dave has been editor for umpteen years adding it to his long list of tasks including that of Treasurer and Journal Secretary. Thank you for producing such a varied and informative publication over many years. I am sure Sam would be pleased to receive contributions for inclusion in her newsletter over the coming years.

Roy Forshaw

Autumn Meetings 2021.

All meetings are via Zoom. Zoom sessions will start at 7.15 p.m. and lectures will commence at 7.30 p.m.

21st October James Wright FSA: *Mediaeval Buildings Myths – The Folklore and Archaeology of Historic Buildings*

This talk looks at some of the most common misconceptions surrounding historic buildings. Stories of secret passages, yarns that spiral stairs in castles turn one way to advantage right-handed swordsmen and tall tales of ships timbers in pubs. Hopefully, the talk will help to give a broader and deeper understanding of mediaeval buildings that will bring us just that little bit closer to their former occupants.

Merseyside Archaeological Society

Hon Chair:
Roy Forshaw

Hon Secretary:
Heather Beeton

Membership Secretary:
Vanessa Oakden
e-mail:
Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Hon Treasurer & Newsletter Editor:
Dave Roberts
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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.*

Contents

From the Chair.....	1
Autumn Meetings 2021.....	1
Lost Halls of Merseyside.....	2
Childwall Graveyard Survey.....	4
Norton Priory Visit.....	8
On-line Resources.....	8

18th November Gina Muskett: *'From Leicestershire to Liverpool: the Roman mosaic from Medbourne'*

This talk is based on an article published in 2015 in the journal 'Mosaic'. Although the County Sessions House mosaic is the starting point for the talk, primarily to emphasise the link with Liverpool, the main topic of the talk is the original Roman mosaic which I rediscovered in Juniper Street store and the involvement of the 19th century railway engineer who managed to save a fragment for us in Liverpool and apparently supervised the laying of the CSH floor. The really good thing about the fragment in the Antiquities collection is that it is part of a significant mosaic pavement from a Roman villa, first found in the 18th century and, until my 'find' had been thought lost.

16th December *Christmas Party and Quiz*

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> .
- Autumn Meetings 2021.**

Lost Halls of Merseyside

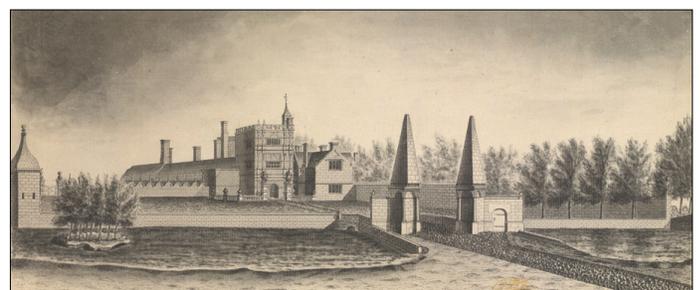
This short article is the first of a planned series which will briefly describe what I've chosen to term the 'Lost Halls of Merseyside', though most will be known to members of MAS, at the very least as placenames.

None of the houses I'll be covering have significant standing remains, the sites of most will have been built over long ago, and the locations of some largely forgotten. Others may have been partly or fully excavated since they were demolished, and in few instances small sections may (or may not, there'll be some speculation) survive incorporated into later buildings. The only criteria I've set myself is that the original house should have been constructed between c.1100 AD and 1650 AD and that there shouldn't be any significant standing remains; so houses such as Speke Hall, Storeton Hall and Brimstage Hall won't be covered. I won't be covering every site on Merseyside, but cherry picking those with good map, photographic or painted evidence or interesting stories.

My aim's not to provide a detailed or exhaustive account of each site, or to present any new research, more to provide short pointers to what's out there and what's been lost over the past 1-200 years as Liverpool and the towns around it expanded to create Merseyside as it is today. All of the sites I'll be covering have been studied by others long before I took any interest and I'll provide a list of sources with each for those who want to read more (or point out my mistakes). However, the two best single sources which cover most of the sites are Jen Lewis's BAR published in 2000 (Lewis 2000) and Vol 11 of JMAS (Lewis & Cowell 2002).

Bank Hall

Bank Hall, the seat of the Moore family, was located in Kirkdale, now a part of inner city Liverpool but a separate township until 1835 when it was incorporated into the rapidly expanding Borough of Liverpool. The family played a significant role in the medieval and post-medieval history of Liverpool and Lancashire, for example Colonel John Moore, played a prominent part in the Civil War sieges of the town and was one of the signatories to Charles I's death warrant. However, Kirkdale remained largely agricultural in character until the 1830s and 40s but was



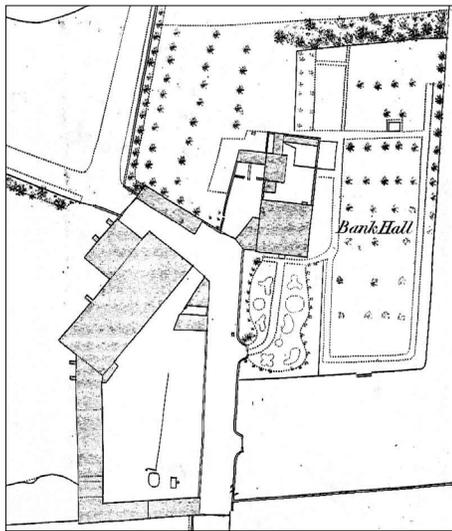
Bank Hall. Blackmore engraving 1754

soon rapidly incorporated into Liverpool as the dock system and housing were constructed, largely obliterating the earlier landscape.

The Moore family's association with Liverpool and Kirkdale can be traced to at least the mid-13th century, prior to that the main landholders in Kirkdale seem to have been the Kirkdale and Ireland families. The date at which Bank Hall was founded is unclear. The Moore's original principal dwelling in the 13th century was Moore Hall on Old Hall Street in Liverpool which is first mentioned in 1236 and was demolished in 1820 (Farrer & Brownbill 1907; McLaughlin Cook & Roberts 2007). William Moore purchased the manor of Kirkdale in 1408 and in 1434 Robert de la Moore owned land at Bank House which was probably the site of Bank Hall. It therefore seems likely that Bank Hall was built early in the 15th century, a date which would be consistent with later descriptions of the house being situated within a moat.



1768 Yates & Perry Bank Hall



Bank Hall 1847

Owing to family debt the manor of Kirkdale and most of the lands were sold to the Earl of Derby in January 1724/5. The purchase included the manors of Kirkdale, Bootle, and Linacre, and all Sir Cleave Moore's estates in Kirkby, West Derby, Fazakerley, Litherland, Little Crosby, Ellel, Horsam, Walton, and Liverpool (Farrer & Brownbill 1907).

There are few contemporary descriptions of Bank Hall. The best is by William Enfield (1773) who described Bank Hall as:

'...a curious model of the ancient architecture, such as prevailed about 500 years ago, and doubtless in those days was esteemed a very grand structure. The front of it was moated with water, over which was a passage by a bridge between two obelisks to the gateway, whereon was a tower, on which were many shields of arms carved in stone : of which the most remarkable was that within the court, over the gate, being undoubtedly the achievement of the founder, viz. 1st, Ten Trefoils, 4, 3, 2, 1 2d, Three Greyhounds current; 3rd, A Buck's-head, cabosh'd, in front; 4th, A Griphon Rampant. Crest, a More-Cock Volant, Date, 1282

The great hall was a curious piece of antiquity, much ornamented with carvings, busts, and shields. It had no ceiling, but was open quite up to the roof, with various projections of the carved parts, hereon trophies of war and military habiliments were formerly suspended. On a wall, between the court and garden, was a grand arrangement of all the armorial acquisitions of the family. The shields were carved on circular stones, elevated, and placed at equal distances, like an embattlement. But this venerable pile has lately been demolished and will probably soon be forgotten.'

The description of the great hall implies a structure similar to those at Rufford and Speke Halls and it seems to have been largely unaltered since it was first built in the early 15th century, but unfortunately it's not possible to determine whether or not it had stone walls or was timber framed.

Herdman (1856) described *'....a stone 2 ft. 6 in. high by 18 in. broad, inserted in the garden wall near the old moat; it had upon it the "trefoils" of Turton, and the motto within a scroll, " Dieu et mav povrt.'* This, and some of the other carvings, may have been taken to Knowsley Hall *'to which a number of the carved and worked stones were taken'* (Stewart-Brown 1911) but they seem to have since been lost.

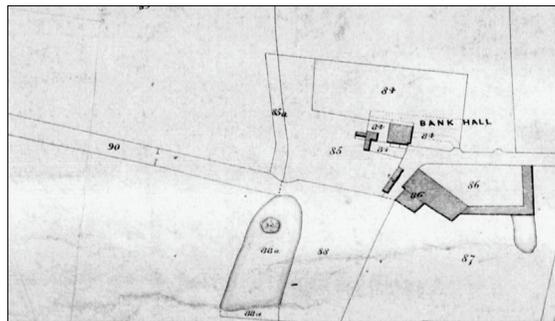
There are a couple of engraved views of the hall. The Blackmore engraving of 1754 shows gardens accessed by gates bounded by two obelisks which seem to be to the front of a bridge crossing a moat as described by Enfield 19 years later. The house is fronted by a crenellated three storey gatehouse with a single arched gate. The materials are uncertain but are likely to be brick and/or stone and the architecture is consistent with a broadly 15-16th century date. To its right (south) is a gable fronted two storey wing, probably



Bank Hall 1851

in stone, with mullioned windows and chimney stacks, the presence of two storeys suggests that it cannot be the open great hall Enfield described. To the rear of the gatehouse is a two (?) storey service wing with at least five brick(?) chimney stacks. The Great Hall described by Enfield does not seem to be depicted, it may have been incorporated into the service wing but is perhaps more likely to be out of view, obscured by the other buildings.

Herdman's drawing shows a similar arrangement, but must have been produced long after the hall's demolition in 1773, Herdman was born in 1805, and is likely to be based upon the Blackmore engraving.



Bank Hall 1839 Tithe Map

The only contemporary map to show Bank Hall is the 1768 Yates and Perry map. This shows Bank Hall as two structures set within a small square enclosure, presumably the moat, the larger northern building is L-shaped.

To the south are two ponds, perhaps fishponds, and south of that a single L-shaped building. The latter is probably the same building as that depicted to the south of the pond on the 1st edition OS map. Although named as 'Bank Hall' on the OS map, this cannot be the Moore's residence because that had been demolished over 70 years earlier. The same building is shown on the 1839 Tithe Map, though the apportionment provides few useful details. The house is at Plot 85 and was occupied by Michael Ashcroft, the large range of buildings to the south of the house are merely labelled 'Outbuildings' and it seems that this was a farm attached to Bank Hall, though it must have dated to at least the late 18th century, perhaps earlier. This site too had been demolished by the time the next OS map was surveyed in the 1890s.

The site today would be unrecognisable to the Moore's, it lies on the fringes of the dock estate in an area now occupied by warehouses and light industrial units constructed on the site since the mid-19th century. The chances of anything of the buildings surviving below ground are best described as minimal, though there may be an outside chance that sections of the moat survive.

Enfield W. 1773 *Essay Towards the History of Liverpool* <https://archive.org/details/anessaytowardsh00perrgoog/page/n158/mode/2up>

Farrer W. and Brownbill J. 1907 *A History of the County of Lancaster*, 3, 35-40.

Herdman W.G. 1856 *Pictorial Relics Of Ancient Liverpool. Accompanied with Descriptions Of The Antique Buildings*

Lewis J. & Cowell R.W. 2002 The archaeology of a changing landscape : the last thousand years in Merseyside. *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society*, 11.

McLaughlin Cook J. & Roberts D. 2007 *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1770*. Merseyside Arch Soc.

Stewart-Brown R. 1911 Moore of Bankhall *Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs. and Cheshire*, 63. 111-12

Lewis, J. M. 2000 *Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby: Tenorial evidence and physical structure*. British Archaeological Reports (British Series) 310, Oxford.

Moore Archives <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/a37eab56-a1f8-32da-a1f6-488699982c0b>

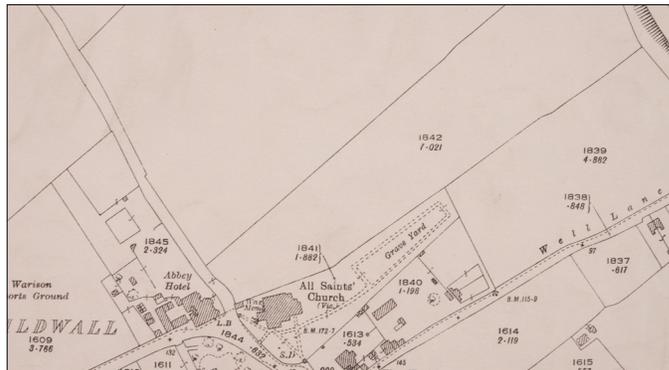
Mark Adams

Childwall All Saints Graveyard Survey – 'What lies beyond the grave..'

The May Newsletter contained an article describing what the graveyard survey team has achieved over the last 10 years or so. We now look to the future, at what can be gained from an analysis of the data and at additional information that can be gathered from other sources and how it may be used to piece together the development of the churchyard over time. The survey data will be of use to people with varying interests for example the genealogist, the local and art historian or geologist. The focus here is purely archaeological.



All Saints Church 1845 OS Map



All Saints Church 1927 OS Map showing the 1878 extension

Archaeology is a multi-discipline subject which often requires knowledge of specialist subject areas. Some of this knowledge is held by the archaeologist but in some instances it is necessary to refer to outside experts. The initial approach to this study is based on the study of landscapes and material culture. Landscapes are largely defined by time and space and the needs of the people who inhabit them. Material culture can be described as the production of objects by humans to meet their needs. Both definitions are relevant to the archaeological study of graveyards.

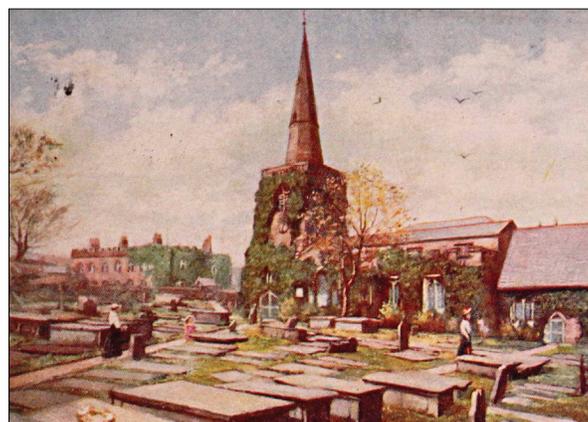
Brief History

At the centre of the graveyard landscape lies the Church and it is the collective history of this building and the people who worshipped there that define what we see in the graveyard today. Ronald Stewart-Brown (who is buried in the churchyard) has written an excellent history of the church building and its congregation (Stewart-Brown 1914). Briefly, a priest at Childwall is mentioned in Domesday and there was probably a 'church' there at that time. The building we see today is largely 18th century but contains a number of architectural elements dating back to the 11/12th century. The earliest dateable churchyard monument bears the date 1620. Throughout the church's history many burials will have been disturbed to make way for new incumbents. An ossuary was constructed on the north side of the church in 1723 to keep the remains of those who were 're-housed'. The building was demolished around 1810.

The Development of the Churchyard

The 1845 edition of the Ordnance Survey map shows us that the churchyard in the mid-19th century was substantially smaller than it is today. A Terrier dated 1875 (church document) includes a plan of proposed new ground showing available plots and tells us that a successful application was made to the Bishop of Chester to extend the graveyard to the east by 4022 square yards. (Stewart-Brown 1914, 83). This can be confirmed by archaeological evidence and the churchyard layout on the 1891 and 1927 Ordnance Survey maps. A further extension was made to the north and north-east of the church about 1930. This is the churchyard we see today.

The events leading up to the 1875 expansion are interesting. In common with many churches established before the 19th century, the graveyard at Childwall was beginning to fill up as a result of Liverpool's Victorian expansion. An application under the Burial Act 1853 to close the churchyard in favour of a new cemetery at Wavertree never went ahead (Atherton I.). The history behind this application remains to be investigated. The tight packing of the mid-19th century monuments on the south side of the church may be a consequence of a lack of available space at this time. It is also interesting that the boundary between the old church ground and the extension opened in 1875 shows a clear contrast in monument type with old red sandstone ledgers on the one side and yellow sandstone headstones and early 20th century granite monuments on the other. This may indicate a gap in the natural development of the graveyard landscape and consequently there may be some monument types which would normally be found in a churchyard of this period which are missing.



Postcard view of the south side of the churchyard 1905

Data in the Graveyard Survey

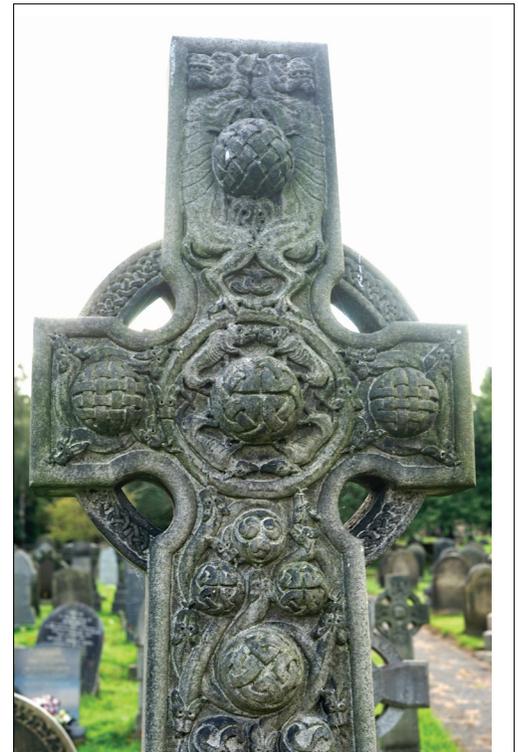
The data gathered in the graveyard survey is our starting point for looking more deeply into how the churchyard at Childwall has evolved over time. For example, we can breakdown the attributes of nearly 2500 existing

monuments in several ways e.g. by monument type, the material from which they are made, the style and application of the lettering in the epitaph, orientation etc. and produce graphs and tables showing trends over time. Using the location plan we can look at the spatial arrangement of monument types. We can also analyse the data retrieved from epitaphs and produce statistics for a population of 6,000 - 8,000 people, by date of death, age at death, sex, residence, occupation etc. Most of this is easily done and will provide useful information regarding the final remains of the churchyard population and its landscape.

The surviving monuments present in the churchyard are a part of the material culture of those who are buried there. There are many different reasons for choosing a particular monument type, its decoration and wording in the epitaph and its place within the churchyard. Influences include wealth, status, tradition and culture. The last two are subject to change over time. In some cases the choice of monument was planned in advance. In others, it was carried out retrospectively by relatives after death. When these factors are combined with human traits such as belief, grief and emotion it becomes difficult to identify a reason for the choice of monument and its attributes archaeologically.

The general trend over time is from simple headstones and ledgers alongside larger chest tombs and table graves to the exotic and extravagant 19th and early 20th century monuments with an abundance of Latin crosses and then headstones in a wide variety of forms and stonework. The Victorian and early 20th century headstones can be broken down into many types and sub-types.

The monument materials are most interesting. The early monuments, mainly headstones and ledgers, are made from red sandstone and the assumption is that the stone was sourced locally. There were at least 10 sandstone quarries operating nearby (Historic England County Building Stone Atlas (undated)). There was an explosion of new materials in the mid-19th century with a shift from red to lighter coloured sandstones, the introduction of the use of marble and the appearance of new monument types and materials. The current assumption is that the new materials e.g. granites and larvikites became available as a result of the demand for 'exotic' stonework in the late 19th century building industry in the



Monument to Annie Caton (died 1912), wife of Robert Caton. Celtic ringed cross with bosses, boars and serpents



A broken larvikite cross shaft

centre of Liverpool. This was also a period of rapid advances in technology and improvements in transport which made 'exotic' stone easier to work and more accessible. Identification of some of these new stone types requires the assistance of specialists and we are grateful to members of Liverpool Geological Society and our own Maurice Handley for their help. The names of 31 late 19th and 20th century masons have been found on some of the monuments. Document searches may reveal useful information regarding their trade.

One of the curiosities of the Childwall churchyard is the large number of vaults. The older part of the graveyard contains 16 vaults which mainly survive as low, flat, rectangular structures often with a kerb and a flat stone marked 'Entrance' in front. The 1875 extension plan shows 36 new plots described as vaults. These new vaults appear on the plan as subterranean square structures. Above ground they comprise some of the most elegant monuments in the churchyard and include those of the Mac Iver family the founders of Cunard and Sir Andrew Barclay Walker. The means of access and construction methods used in the creation of these particular monuments are yet to be investigated.

Data from Other Sources

We need to combine the data from the survey with that from other sources to get anywhere near the complete story of the churchyard. Documents available to the survey team include an undated survey of the old part of churchyard (church document). By reference to the last typescript entry the survey appears to date about 1938. The surveyor is not named. It includes a detailed plan and will be useful for cross-checking against the current survey. Early plans of Childwall parish exist and will be consulted which may add further information regarding the evolution of the churchyard. Old photos, drawings and paintings of the church and its surroundings are also immediately accessible. The possibility and value of accessing other records including accounts and parish books has yet to be considered. A further insight may be acquired by a document search into family records, newspaper reports and

the probate records etc. of select individuals. Wally Pritchard, a church member, has already done much useful research into the history of families buried there.

One of the most important archives at the Church is the burial register which spans 1557 to date. The early years up to 1753 have been transcribed by the Lancashire Parish Register Society and are available as books or pdf. files. (Dickinson F. and Foster I. 1983). The survey team has photographed the church burial register from 1750 to 1940. An Excel spread sheet of the Bishop's transcripts from 1729 to 1870 using data extracted from the 'Ancestry' web-site has also been created. The burial information in the Bishop's transcripts appears to match the data in the burial register although there are some omissions. In the coming months we will be checking and adding data from the burial register onto the spread sheet to get a complete electronic record of the burials that are registered.

Access to the burial record is extremely valuable. A large number of the individuals named in the burial register are not mentioned on a monument in the churchyard. There are many possible reasons for this. Conversely, many of the persons named on monuments are not buried in the churchyard but are remembered in order to establish family relationships. As all this information will be held electronically it should be relatively easy to ask questions of the data by mixing and matching information from the two datasets.

The Future

There is much to consider. Clearly, this is a project which is largely data driven. It will involve asking the right questions of the data, referring to the documentary sources for additional information and validating the results where possible. The approach should be to start 'simple' and then drill down further into the data to explore the detail. Many questions may have to be answered by further visits to the churchyard. Taking on an investigation into the whole of the historic period of the churchyard in one go is too big a task. Initial thoughts are that the mid 19th to early 20th centuries look particularly interesting as a starting point as there is a wide variety of monuments and the documentary record is good. The possible rewards are plain to see.

At present there are 3 of us working on the final stages of Phase 2. We will shortly be looking for additional volunteers to assist with what is tentatively called phase 3. The project requires a good knowledge of MS Excel and/or experience in searching for and extracting information from documents. There will be an announcement in a future Newsletter.

Atherton I. 1853 National Archives <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16772882>

Dickinson F. and Foster I. 1983 Lancashire and Cheshire Parish Register Society Pt 1 Vol.106 1557-1680 Pt 2 Vol. 122 1681 – 1753, Advertising Printing Works

Minerals UK, Historic England County Building Stone Atlas (undated) : https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/buildingStones/StrategicStoneStudy/EH_atlases.html

Stewart-Brown R. 1914 Notes on Childwall Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Vol. 65 N.S. 20 p. 47-170

Dave Roberts



The vault of Sir Andrew Barclay Walker who died in 1893

MAS Norton Priory Visit

Norton Priory is located just outside Runcorn and was the home to Augustinians up to the Dissolution. The museum has a standing 12th century undercroft leading out to the abbey remains which have been excavated to show the building's foundations. In 1545 the abbey and manor were sold to Richard Brooke who built a house known as Norton Hall incorporating some of the abbey remains. The museum opened in 1982 and consists of 42 acres of gardens and woodland as well as a recently modernised museum building housing the undercroft and a small portion of Norton Hall.

The rain held off for the duration of our visit to Norton Priory which meant the excavations were shown off at their best. The formal tour started at 2.00 p.m. but some of the party arrived early allowing them to view other parts of the museum grounds. The walled garden was in excellent early autumn foliage with plenty of flowers and vegetables still on show. The museum exhibition had plenty of displays including finds to explain the history of the site and excellent audio-visually showing the transition from a monastic site to a manor and finally the museum today.

The focal point of the day was to meet Rob Philpott who is directing the University of Liverpool student dig. There were two trenches, one exposing the Canons' graveyard where three truncated stone coffin burials and a reused coffin lid were found. A trench identifying the location of the moat almost certainly used as fish ponds had also been dug. We were also fortunate to have Patrick Greene attending who started his career at Norton as Dig director in 1971 and was giving the 30th anniversary lecture at the museum that evening after a day working in the trenches.

Thank you to Rob Philpott and Lynn Smith for providing such an informative day. It is such a bonus hearing from those who have the specialist knowledge actively involved with the project. It was a splendid afternoon and possibly we will return in two or three years time when the current excavation project is completed.

Roy Forshaw



Group looking at a relocated grave marker

Online Resources and Talks

These monthly lists started when we went into lockdown in 2020 as a way of helping people keep in touch 'remotely' with archaeological activities and resources.

Now that MAS is returning to quarterly newsletters in the expectation that we shall be able to return to in-person monthly meetings in early 2022, I shall continue to compile monthly Online Resources lists for October, November and December 2021 (unless people beg me to stop!). These will be sent out by email only.

It is noticeable that online talks etc are beginning to dwindle as organisations begin to move back to in-person meetings, and I shall probably simply provide a handful of new resources in each quarterly newsletter from early 2022 onwards.

If you find a resource that you think other MAS members may be interested in, then please do send a link to me so that I can include it and disseminate it through MAS. My contact email is Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk

Forthcoming talks

To celebrate the inscription of the North Wales slate quarry industrial sites as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) will be hosting a free online talk by Louise Barker on Thursday 7th October 5-6pm: Exploring The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales: A Celebration of Wales's New World Heritage Site

Free but BOOK IN ADVANCE <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/event/exploring-the-slate-landscape-of-northwest-wales-a-celebration-of-wales-new-world-heritage-site/>

NB if you miss it, it will be recorded and put on their YouTube channel (see below in 'Previous talks')

The **Roman Finds Group** are holding their autumn conference online on Monday 18th October. There will be 14 talks about finds from excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman sites affected by infrastructure projects (rail, road and sewers, mainly in southern England). Free but BOOK IN ADVANCE at <https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/>

The University of York is hosting an online seminar on Wednesday 3rd November from 4:00 – 6:00 pm by Prof Jane Hawkes on **Globalising Anglo-Saxon Art**, in which she considers the artistic motifs etc on their own terms, rather than judging them by Western European concepts of ‘classical’ art traditions. FREE but BOOK IN ADVANCE

<https://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/public-lectures/autumn-2021/anglo-saxon-art/>

Date for your diary if you are interested in metals: Sat 13th November. The **Historical Metallurgy Society** will be holding their 2021 **Research in Progress** conference online, hosted by Moesgaard Museum (in Aarhus, Denmark). The newsletter states that ‘We would like to invite all members, students, curators, researchers, metallurgists, commercial archaeologists’ so it is open to everyone. I don’t know yet whether or not there will be a booking fee.

Check website for further details as they become available at <https://historicalmetallurgy.org/> which also has details of publications, online resources etc.

Previous talks

The **Westmorland Dales** Landscape Partnership’s Heritage Talks are continuing and the recording of 1st September’s talk on **local community test pitting in gardens etc** in the village of **Ravenstonedale** is available (along with all of the previous talks) at <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Site/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership/Category/westmorland-dales-heritage-talks>

NB not strictly heritage: but the next two talks are on 6th Oct (conserving species-rich meadows) and 1st Dec (methods of water control in river catchments leading into the Vale of Eden). Free, but book in advance to receive the zoom link.

NNB the partnership is also organising heritage walks again for those prepared to travel to Westmorland. See same website.

The **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)** has a huge range of YouTube items, far too many to mention, including recordings of online talks <https://www.youtube.com/c/rcahmw>

The **Gwynedd Archaeological Trust’s** website has two recorded talks currently available:

Gary Robinson on **Coastal Archaeology of North West Wales** and Jane Kenny on the **First farmers of Wales: the Neolithic period in the North West** at <http://www.heneb.co.uk/newnews.html>

The CBA (**Council for British Archaeology**) Yorkshire group have been very active online during Covid constraints, and have uploaded lots of videos of talks held over the past 18 months. The latest to be uploaded are **four short talks by community groups** about their projects, each of which has received a grant from CBA Yorkshire to encourage community engagement. See them all at <http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/videos/>

More history than archaeology, but I was intrigued by the reasons for surviving documentary records: Friends of Lancashire Archives is delighted to present ‘**Love, hate and the law in Tudor Lancashire: the three wives of Ralph Rishton**’, a talk by Professor Lawrence Poos of the Catholic University of America. Ralph Rishton (circa 1522-1573) was a member of an East Lancashire minor gentry family, *who would have remained in obscurity if his matrimonial career had not left such a substantial trail in the records of courts of law*.

Larry’s talk is available to watch online now, and he will take part in a live online Q&A on Wednesday 29 September at 6pm. For more information and to access the recording please visit the FLA website: <https://www.flarchives.co.uk/>.

Online resources

All periods: Oxford Archaeology’s website hosts a wide range of information on their projects and activities - see, for instance the ‘**Projects**’ tab (early prehistory to a 1940s Spitfire wrecksite) or the ‘**News**’ tab at <https://oxfordarchaeology.com/news>

Great range of resources on **Palaeolithic archaeology at PalNet** <https://palnetuk.wordpress.com/palaeolithic-teaching-resources/>

The **British Museum’s** exhibitions website has just added a bit of information about the **Bronze Age pendant with sun motif** found deposited in a bog in the **Shropshire** Marches in 2018: it is currently at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery until 12th December 2021 and will then travel elsewhere (venues not yet announced) <https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/gathering-light-bronze-age-golden-sun>

You can see information about other exhibitions (both current eg Nero & history of Peru, and past ones) on the BM website even if you don’t want to travel to London.

The recent **community excavations on Little Asby Common** (Sept 2021: one of the Westmorland Dales heritage projects) has a fun

blog with daily updates for prehistoric sites, boundaries and a medieval longhouse.

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

The **Gwynedd Archaeological Trust** has lots of information about a wide range of **projects** including crop marks, landscape, excavations etc at <http://www.heneb.co.uk/newprojects.html>

This includes a link to their latest **Friends' newsletter** (for 2019-2020) which includes information about **excavations** of: an **Iron Age Hillfort** (Dinas Dinlle), a **quarry barracks** & a **Roman site** at Segontium (Caernarfon); information about investigations at **Parc Cybi** near Holyhead, Anglesey- a 20 ha development site with Mesolithic to modern remains, with a new exhibition & book; the **prehistoric origins of Newborough** and investigations of **World War II anti-invasion defences**. See <http://www.heneb.co.uk/YAGGAT2019-2020.pdf>

Another fun blog of **2021 excavations at Dinas Dinlle coastal fort** (near Caernarfon):

Lots of excellent photos and 'snapshot' videos (and stunning views in lovely weather). <http://www.heneb.co.uk/digdiarydinasdinlle2021.html>

And two blogs (September 2021 has been popular for fieldwork!) about excavations at the **Roman villa near Rossett** by Wrexham Museum and Chester University can be found at

<https://youtu.be/SVXrb45pCiw> and

<https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2021/09/25/roman-rossett-digging-a-roman-villa/>

The **Vindolanda Trust**, Northumberland, currently has a research project to **digitise their collections of wooden artefacts** from the Roman fort and extramural settlement. This is working towards a new online exhibition "Digging up memories - making connections" which explores how Roman wooden artefacts can relate to us: evoke memories or emotions and the imagination they spark. The exhibition presents the responses of staff, volunteers, trustees & colleagues about their favourite wooden objects through the medium of audio, video and creative writing displays. The exhibition will be live at www.vindolanda.com from 4th October to 31st December 2021.

A community group formed to try to enhance the **condition of an 'at risk' medieval building** have created a website illustrating their efforts and successes at

<http://islandhouse.wales/>

The **Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)** has several **map-related resources** online including:

- the **Mold Town Plan 1871**

<https://rcahmw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=00a80b3e58da4c9ba316ebf99358981d>

- **Deep Mapping Estate Archives**

<https://rcahmw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c6a414a5042848e291bf2a3d0d626424>

- **GIS map of the Seven Levels near Newport** focused on drainage

https://livinglevelsgis.org.uk/wp_gll_live/wp/court-of-sewers-record-search/

They also host an article by Adam Coward about **Welsh wool and slavery** at <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/welsh-wool-slavery-and-the-built-environment/> with good links to three major investigations into the links between **slavery and UK heritage** by Historic England, the National Trust, and the Welsh Government; as well as links to information relevant to Wales and/or the woollen industry.

An HLF Landscape Partnership project The Land of Iron ran from 2016-2021 and looked at the legacy of the 19th-20th century **ironstone industry in the North York Moors**. Lots of interesting information, short videos, walking routes provided on their website

<https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/looking-after/landofiron>

Newcastle's Discovery Museum has a 360 degree interactive virtual tour of their physical exhibition looking at 300 years of England's Northern Cavalry and its former regiments at

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=GxCbfqJbWLu>

TV programmes on catch-up

A new 5 part series of one-hour programmes on Channel 4: **Bettany Hughes's Treasures of the World** finished on Sat 02nd October and covered Greece, Malta, Gibraltar, Mediterranean islands & Istanbul. All instalments can be seen at <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/bettany-hughes-treasures-of-the-world> which also provides links to 10 other similar series by Channel 4 including ones on Britain's Historic Towns (presented by Alice Roberts), Aztecs, the Amazon, Athens, Wales & several Egyptian topics.

Dan Cruikshank presented **80 Treasures around the world**. Catch up at <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x80ubq1>

BBC have a nostalgic collection of early programmes (first broadcast in 1950s- 1970s) on archaeology including **Animal, Vegetable or Mineral; Chronicle; The grandeur that was Rome; Sir Mortimer and Magnus**. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p018818x>

This is part of a **BBC4 Archaeology Season**. Many series, programmes and short videos on archaeological topics can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0109jnw>

Thanks to Nancy Jenkins & Mark Adams for contributing. Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk

Sue Stallibrass