

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

Our winter evening talks take place on the third Thursday of each month until April 2024

The venue is the Quaker Meeting House (QMH) 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT. It is close to Lime Street and Liverpool Central train stations, and Queen Street and Liverpool One bus stations. See: <https://www.liverpoolquakers.org.uk/contact>

Doors open at 7.00pm for coffee/tea/biscuits and the meeting starts at 7.30pm, closing at 9.00pm
The costs to attend a meeting are £1 for MAS members, with visitors welcome at £2

NB During the midwinter months (including January) our meetings are held on-line via Zoom, to avoid travel in inclement weather. Online "doors" open 7.15 for the 7.30pm meeting.

MAS autumn/winter talks programme 2023-2024

DATE	VENUE	Speaker	Topic
Sept Thurs 21 st COMPLETED	QMH	Dan Garner MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)	The Chester Amphitheatre Environs Research Project in Grosvenor Park: Current results from the ongoing excavations by West Cheshire Museums in partnership with the University of Chester. https://www1.chester.ac.uk/news/archaeological-excavations-grosvenor-park
October Thurs 19 th COMPLETED	QMH	Warren Kern MAS	An illustrated talk (including some demonstration items) about local historic objects
November Thurs 16 th COMPLETED	ZOOM	Julie Franklin Headland Archaeology	Life and death in a northern milltown: excavations at St Peter's Church, Blackburn Archaeological excavations in 2015 on the site of the former St Peter's church rescued nearly 2000 19 th -century human burials.
December * Thurs 14 th * COMPLETED	ZOOM	Chair, members QuizMAster Mark Adams	Christmas social & Quiz *PLEASE NOTE DATE* 14 th Dec
January Thurs 18 th COMPLETED	ZOOM	Scott Lloyd & Jon Dollery RCAHMW	Mapping the Maps and Bounding the Bounds: Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping from Wales for the Digital Age
February Thurs 15th	QMH	student short talks	Work in Progress talks by research students at Liverpool universities
March Thurs 21st	QMH	Mark Adams Headland, MAS	Recent investigations at J M Worrall's Ordsall Lane dyeworks
April Thurs 18th	QMH	Chair & MEMBERS	AGM + short talks by members HAVE YOU GOT A 10 MINUTE TALK ON SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU?

WANTED! MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS! If you have been interested in something archaeological, eg a site, a place, an object, a question, why not share that with MAS? April 18th is a Members' evening. Can you talk to us for 10 minutes? You don't need to have a powerpoint presentation, but some photos that we can show on the screen would be helpful. Please contact Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk or Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Forthcoming online talks

The **Prehistoric Society** are continuing to hold talks by international specialists in their Global Pasts series. These hybrid lectures are all free to attend online

***** JANUARY** Sorry for last minute information for this talk**

Tuesday 30th January 12.00 – 13.00 ie lunchtime: Dr Shinya Shoda (University of York) **Tracing culinary traditions in prehistoric East and Central Asia.** He has published work on material from several different Asian countries including China, Korea, Japan, Russia and Kazakhstan and focuses on chemical traces of food (lipids) in pottery vessels.

FREE but register in advance to attend at:

<https://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events/2024-01-30>

Tuesday 6th February 7.00 – 8.00pm Prof Philip Piper (Australian National University) **Vietnam's role in understanding social and economic change in mainland Southeast Asia from c 5000 – 3500 BC.** This is a period when people changed their behaviour considerably, from hunter/gatherer/forager/fishers to farmers of domestic crops and animals, living more settled lives, manufacturing pottery and other new types of artefacts, and showing greater cultural contacts. Several Vietnamese sites have yielded multi-period archaeological material, which greatly helps studies of how, where and when these activities changed or developed. FREE but register in advance to attend at:

<https://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events/2024-02-06>

IN PERSON PUBLIC LECTURE, University of Liverpool

University of Liverpool Department of Archaeology, Classics & Egyptology: the annual Postgate Lecture.

Lecture Theatre C, Central Teaching Hub: Building 221 on the **campus map**:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/files/docs/maps/liverpool-university-campus-map.pdf>

Tuesday 13th February 5.15 pm Doors open 5.00 pm Prof. Catherine Rowett: **Ownership, property and belonging: Some lessons to learn from thinkers of antiquity about economics and success.**

Catherine Rowett taught philosophy at the University of East Anglia in Norwich from 2003 to 2023, aside from the time when she served in the European Parliament as Green Party MEP for the East of England, 2019-2020. Before moving to Norwich she taught in the Classics department at Liverpool. Her field of expertise is ancient philosophy, and recent publications include Knowledge and Truth in Plato, and a chapter on 'Iris Murdoch and Plato' in The Murdochian Mind. She is now professor emerita at UEA, and serves as a County Councillor on Norfolk County Council, and as national spokesperson for the Green Party of England and Wales on matters related to work, employment and social security.

This public lecture is FREE (with subsequent drinks reception), but **book at**:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/university-of-liverpool-department-of-archaeology-classics-and-egyptology/postgate-lecture-professor-catherine-rowett/2024-02-13/17:15/t-kr1pngz>

Gresham College provide national lecture series by leading specialists

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all>

all online talks are FREE but register in advance (or watch online later)

NB there are none scheduled for live broadcast in **December**, but you can watch **recordings of previous ones** if you missed the live event

The Political Imagination of Ancient Greek Ideas, Prof Melissa Lane,

Thurs 19th Oct 2023 to 13th June 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/political-ideas>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Thurs 19th Oct 2023: Plato and the ideas of political office: see the recording

Thurs 11th Jan 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of justice

Thurs 07th March 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of equality under the law

Thurs 14th March 2024: Democracy: ancient models, modern challenges

Thurs 30th May 2024: Experts in politics: lessons from Socrates and Aristotle

Thurs 13th Jun 2024: Plato's cave: thinking about climate change

Evolution: The Big Questions, Prof Robin May,

Weds 4th October to 8th May 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/evolution-questions>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Weds 04th Oct 2023: A small history of big evolutionary ideas: see the recording

Wed, 15 Nov 2023: Random chance in evolution

Weds 20th Jan 2024: Why is there only one species of human?

Weds 07th Feb 2024: a 300,000-year history of human evolution

Weds 20th March 2024: Artificial selection: How humans have shaped evolution

Weds 08th May 2024: Evolution tomorrow and beyond

Magic, the Supernatural, and the Lost Gods of Europe, Prof Ronald Hutton:

Weds 20th Sept 2023 to 5th June 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/magic-europe>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Weds 20th Oct 2023: Ancient goddesses of sex and war: see recording

Weds 08th Nov 2023: Were there pagan goddesses in Christian Europe?

Weds 14th Feb 2024: Dragons: a history

Weds 06th March 2024: Ritual nudity in history and religion

Weds 24th April 2024: The western magical tradition

Weds 05th Jun 2024: Witch-hunting in European and world history

Society of Antiquaries of London:

Thursday February 8th 2024 at 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm NOTE lunchtime timing

People and Place in the Kingdom of Northumbria: New project and fieldwork perspectives. Talk by **Sarah Semple**

FREE to attend but register in advance at:

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/people-and-place/>

Yeavinger in Northumberland appears in the 8th-century Ecclesiastical History of the English People in which Bede describes a visit to the royal vill of Adgefrin during the reign of King Edwin (c. AD 627), when the Christian missionary Paulinus instructed and baptised many people who gathered there from the surroundings. Air photography in 1949 revealed traces of sub-surface features delineating a series of rectangular hall-like buildings. Excavations by Brian Hope Taylor from 1952 to 1962, revealing a complex settlement, with a sequence of great halls, a string of ancillary buildings, a large enclosure, a remarkable timber grandstand or theatre, cemeteries and buildings associated with pre-Christian and Christian religious activity, all laid out in relation to antecedent, multi-period prehistoric activity and monuments. The site is no longer considered unique, but instead recognised as an influential exemplar of a broader phenomenon of elaborate early medieval royal palace complexes. A new phase of investigation using survey, geophysical prospection and excavation commenced at Yeavinger in 2021. The site is considered in terms of the broader context of late Iron Age and early medieval activity within the region as well as the broader phenomenon of early medieval elite complexes, and, drawing on a composite of evidence, new perspectives are offered on people and communities inhabiting the region that used and visited the early medieval complex at Gefrin.

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Yorkshire regional group welcome people to their monthly 'Fireside Chats' zoom meetings regardless of where they live or whether or not they are a Yorkshire CBA group member.

The zoom Waiting Room opens at 7.15 pm and the meeting starts at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 13th February 7.30 pm Pete Wilson: **Thinking about 'Romans' in Malton/Norton (and beyond)**

Roman Malton and Norton [*on opposite banks of the River Derwent, Yorkshire*] have over the years produced many antiquarian finds, often only reported in the, now defunct, Malton Messenger. That tradition of research into the Roman period was carried on into the 1960s by the likes of Sir Edward Whitley, Raymond Hayes, Rev Derek Smith and Peter Wenham. That changed dramatically with the advent of developer-funded archaeology with important work by a number of organisations, notably MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd and by JB Archaeology Ltd. In addition, pre-Covid, there were several seasons of important research excavations by Steve Roskams and the University of York to the east of the railway

cutting adjacent to the Roman fort.

Pete Wilson reviewed the data for Roman Malton and Norton in Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 78 (2006) and this 'fireside chat' is intended to reflect on how our understanding has changed and developed since then and, time permitting, seek to look at Malton/Norton in the context of the wider 'Roman North'. Pete Wilson is probably the most prominent Roman specialist in Yorkshire and we can look forward to an interesting and informative presentation about important Roman sites to the East of York.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85079431797?pwd=cWY0VkFRWTJJQzk0SUp5VFZKeWlMQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 7943 1797

Passcode: 536376

Society of Antiquaries of London:

Thursday 22nd February at 5pm Dr David Gwyn: **Iron Road; writing the history of the railway from 1750 to 1850**

FREE to attend online (or you can make an optional small voluntary contribution) but you need to register in advance:

https://www.sal.org.uk/event/iron-road-writing-the-history-of-the-railway-from-1750-to-1850/?mc_cid=87383d5a35&mc_eid=1a17e2358d

Even well-informed historians are apt to tell us that the Stockton and Darlington (1825) was the first railway and the Liverpool and Manchester (1830) the second. Not so. Britain already had many hundred miles of railway that trace their origins to the wooden mine and colliery systems of the late medieval and early modern period. (comprehensively described by Dr MJT Lewis in his 1970 volume *Early Wooden Railways*). This talk explores a crucial period of railway history, from wooden way to iron road, to see how it met the needs of the Industrial Revolution. It draws on many authoritative and informed studies about individual railways and locomotives, as well as a range of work from other disciplines. It endeavours to avoid 'techno-nationalism' and a narrative of heroic engineer-inventors and British exceptionalism, acknowledging the way that engineers, mechanics and investors in other countries shrewdly adapted the insular model to their own purposes.

In 2025 we will be celebrating the bicentenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, **in 2029 the bicentenary of the Rainhill locomotive trials and in 2030 the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester** [my emphasis!] and of the Baltimore and Ohio. Now is a good time to consider the impact that this technology has had, and ways of sharing its history.

Past Online Talks

The Association for Industrial Archaeology has a range of resources on its website including videos of past talks, seminars and conference sessions (including the 50th anniversary conference held in September 2023).

<https://industrial-archaeology.org/#>

The video from their **2021 international conference** (which was hosted by the Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society: MIHS) includes talks by **Maurice Handley** (a longstanding member of MAS as well as MIHS) on the **Industrial Archaeology of Merseyside**, and by **Rob Jones on Wirral's Industrial Heritage**. You'll spot which video it is from the cover photograph of Liverpool's Three Graces!
<https://www.youtube.com/@associationforindustrial6242/videos>

Other online resources

St Patrick's Roman-Catholic church and churchyard, Toxteth is the focus of community efforts to research and conserve the heritage asset. The vault burials were studied with help from researchers at the University of Liverpool (including MAS's Publications Secretary, Rob Philpott!) and an Open Access article is available to read or download online:

Harold Mytum, Robert Philpott, Anna Fairley Nielsson , Eloise Burwood and Naomi Dark, 2022,

Collaborating with the Community: Applying Non-Invasive Archaeological Methods in the Crypt and Churchyard of St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Toxteth, Liverpool
Heritage 2022, 5, 3298–3315. <https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage5040169>

NB one of the authors, Anna Fairley, will be giving a talk: Post-Medieval cemetery memorial monuments in Liverpool, at the AIM 2024 (Archaeology In Merseyside) conference on Saturday 5th October. Save the date!

National Museums Liverpool: **Ten fascinating facts about Liverpool's Old Dock**. This article is well illustrated, and the webpage includes links if you would like to book a guided tour of the site. Liverpool Old Dock is reputed to be the first enclosed commercial wet dock in the world.

You have probably walked right over the top of the dock site whilst shopping in Liverpool One: there is a much-too-small-and-never-clean-enough-to-look-through 'spy hole' outside John Lewis' at the foot of the wide flight of Chavasse Park steps, and a useful map alongside at the entrance to the underground car park.

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/stories/ten-fascinating-facts-about-liverpools-old-dock>

The Harris Museum in Preston is currently closed for major renovations to the structure of this Grade I listed building and to re-design the exhibition areas for modern priorities. Estimated re-opening date = Spring 2025

You can see articles about the renovations and 'behind the scenes' packaging of museum collection items.

<https://www.theharris.org.uk/harrisyourplaceinformation/>

Meanwhile, it has made several short illustrated articles about its collections available online: eg History <https://www.theharris.org.uk/collections/history/>

Ceramics: <https://www.theharris.org.uk/collections/ceramics/>

Lancaster Museum 100 items podcasts

The whole series is available on this website (NB not the same site as previously). They cover 50,000 years of interesting items in the museum's collection. The December podcasts include a boneshaker bicycle plus a couple of bonus episodes: interviews with some of the speakers about their favourite historical characters, and a Christmas Quiz.

<https://onehundredyearsonehundredobjects.podbean.com/>

The Carneddau Landscape Partnership has seven short YouTube videos (each one less than 10 minutes) about **Welsh place names in the Carneddau area**. The spoken words are Welsh, and there are English subtitles. The close-ups of locations on modern OS maps help you to associate the sound with the look of the name.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkisli2Z1RX4C7dK22rcDIYqHXTAHEID>

Headland Archaeology is another major player in British commercial archaeology (like Oxford Archaeology, featured in November and December Bulletins) that provides a comprehensive website with news of past and ongoing projects.

<https://headlandarchaeology.com/>

They have been working on a major road improvement scheme for the A14 from Cambridge to Huntingdon and have a short video here:

<https://molaheadland.com/project/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme/>

where you can also access several other videos about their work

The recent Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, paid for the conservation of a **double lime kiln** in Smardale, which had been used to make lime for mortar used in the famous **Smardale viaduct**. A short (3 mins) video by the Friends of the Lake District shows the conserved limekilns and provides a little information about their former use.

<https://vimeo.com/901890544>

Pendennis Castle, at the mouth of the River Fal in Cornwall, was built in the reign of Henry VIII as a gun fort to protect against potential Catholic invasion from the continent. The fort structure and armaments were periodically updated for new garrisons and the fort was last used for military training in 1956. English Heritage manage the site and their website has an illustrated history of the fort (Tudor, Georgian, Napoleonic, First World War), a virtual tour, a study of Tudor warfare, and correspondence of a WWI soldier based at the site:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/pendennis-castle/history-and-stories/virtual-tour

Prince Bishop (of Durham) Cuthbert Tunstall was a controversial figure in Tudor England. NB his coat of arms references an ancestor who was barber to William the

Conqueror (who you know is important!). The online exhibition started as a physical display at Durham Castle.

The online exhibition is clearly designed to engage a wide audience and is very accessible. It flags topics with naïve artwork of digital tapestry figures, which initially looks a bit like it's aimed at primary school children, but it packs in a lot of bite-sized snippets of thought-provoking historic information and some excellent close-ups of the physical exhibits (probably easier and clearer to see than in a museum!).

<https://stories.durham.ac.uk/tunstall/>

The National War Museum currently has an exhibition in Edinburgh Castle examining the histories connected to items stolen by British military forces during colonial conflicts.

The website for the **Legacies of Empire** exhibition includes photographs of some of the stolen items, and there is also a blog linked to the same webpage:

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-war-museum/legacies-of-empire/>

The Prehistoric Society has some online resources designed for teachers but also for those wishing to learn more about prehistory. Lots of bite-size selections of focused information with individual site case studies:

<https://www.prehistoricsociety.org/resources>

The Institute for Pre-and Early-History at the **University of Kiel** (Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel) has produced four **short educational films** on **archaeobotany**, presenting their research methods and questions to first-year students and laypersons. The films are entitled and narrated in German, but they have English subtitles (you may need to click on the relevant button but even I managed it!). They are based on a study of a 5000-year-old settlement in Schleswig-Holstein.

The four films are entitled: Pollen, Phytolithe (phytoliths, which are silica structures produced by many species of plants and which survive in sediments long after the soft plant tissue has decayed), Holzkohle (wood charcoal) and Samen und Früchte (seeds & fruits) which features a charred crab apple

The films have been produced as part of a big research programme: CRC 1266 "Scales of Transformations" and can be accessed on their YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SFB1266>

Further online resources (also in German) are at the project's website

<https://www.sfb1266.uni-kiel.de/de>

Digging for Britain Series 11 presented by Alice Roberts, a new series on BBC 2 of six 'magazine-style' one-hour programmes presenting new discoveries of British Archaeology, loosely based on geographical regions (Episode 1 is 'the North' including the monumental Roman bathhouse in Carlisle).

First broadcast in the first two weeks of January 2024:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b014hl0d/episodes/guide>

this website also has the links for previous series' programmes.

In person FREE exhibition, Manchester Museum

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

The golden mummies of Egypt

18 February 2023 - 14 April 2024

this special exhibition closes on 14th April. It showcases items from the museum's Egypt and Sudan collections.

<https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whats-on/golden-mummies/>

NB this website also provides an illustrated introduction to the topic and the exhibition/exhibits

Tickets are FREE: you can book them in advance (highly recommended) for a chosen date & time of entry:

<https://manchestermuseumshop.com/products/golden-mummies>

information about museum opening times, directions etc at:

<https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/visit-us/>

Book published by a founder member of MAS

Rushen Abbey, Isle of Man. A hundred years of research and excavation

By Peter Davey

Available from Archaeopress as a paperback (£40, which includes a PDF)
or as a PDF eBook (£16)

<https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/Products/9781803275710>

Provisional MAS summer fieldtrip programme
(as at 17th Jan 2024)

	Sat/Sun	Event	Event further details
April	6/7		
	13/14	<i>AINTREE</i>	<i>GRAND NATIONAL</i>
	Thursday April 18th		MAS AGM & MEMBERS' EVENING
April Sat 20th	20/21 ?half day?	New Brighton/ Fort Perch Rock	Napoleonic coastal fort & historic buildings Organiser: Roy Forshaw
	27/28		
May	4/5 + 6	<i>Monday 6th Holiday</i>	<i>Early May Bank Holiday weekend</i>
	11/12		
May Sat 18th	18/19 full day	Pimbo & Upholland	Landscape walk exploring post-Med industrial sites & historic farms Organisers: Roy F. & Sue Stallibrass
	25/26+27...	<i>Sat 27th May -</i>	<i>School half term holiday...</i>
June1/2	<i>-Monday 3rd June</i>	<i>...school half term holiday</i>
	8/9		
	15/16		
June 22/23rd Sat & Sun	22/23 WEEKEND OR 2 DAY TRIPS	Wroxeter via Old Oswestry/ Ironbridge Gorge Museums	Later prehistoric hilltop enclosure & ruins of Roman city + museum. Industrial museums, Victorian Town Organisers: Sue S. & Mark Adams
	29/30		
July Sat July 6th	6/7 ?half day?	Eastham Country Park, Wirral	Victorian Pleasure Park, historic village Organiser: Ann Gemmell
	13/14		
<i>July</i>	20/21	<i>End of school term</i>	<i>Liverpool schools start summer holidays...</i>
	27/28	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays.</i>
<i>August</i>	3/4	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>
	10/11	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>
	17/18	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>
	24/25 +26	<i>Mon 26th August</i>	<i>26th Bank Holiday. School hols. end Weds 31st</i>
	31/01Sept	<i>Monday 2nd September</i>	<i>Liverpool school term starts</i>
Sept	7/8	<i>Heritage Open Days</i>	<i>National Heritage Open Days (DIY)</i>
	14/15	<i>Heritage Open Days</i>	<i>National Heritage Open Days (DIY)</i>
	16/17		
Sept	Thurs 19th		1st MAS evening talk (in person)
	21/22		
	28/29		
October	SAT 5th OCT	MAS CONFERENCE	AIM 2024
October	Thurs 17th		2nd MAS evening talk (in person)

We also hope to have a short visit to **St Patrick's churchyard, Toxteth** in the summer: date to be arranged (the team investigating the site are waiting to hear about funding)

Heritage Open Days are DIY but there will be lots of sites & events to choose from.

Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) summer fieldtrips for 2024

The MAS Events Team have come up with a varied programme of proposed outings during the summer. You can see from the calendar that we have tried to avoid busy times when venues and transport could be problematic ie Grand National weekend, bank holidays, school half term and summer holidays. All the dates suggested are Saturdays apart from a two-day weekend event. This is because public transport is often constrained on Sundays but we can review this if there is a popular alternative.

More details will be available for each walk, together with contact details for the organiser(s) but here's an introduction:

Saturday 20th April New Brighton & Fort Perch Rock: the north coast of the Wirral peninsula has a lot of historic buildings, including a Napoleonic fort built to guard the entrance to the River Mersey. This tour will explore the built heritage and its history.

- Easy walking on pavements etc, with plenty of public transport access and refreshment/comfort facilities.
- Probably a half day or short day

Saturday 18th May Pimbo & Upholland landscape: This area on the current borders of Merseyside, West Lancs and Greater Manchester has an interesting geology that was exploited in the post-Medieval period for the extraction of coal, sandstone, sand and clay. The low-lying land was fertile agricultural land once the peat mosses were drained. The landscape is dotted with disused shafts & quarries, a major brick and terracotta works, routes of works' railways and tramways, and farm buildings of historic & architectural interest.

- This will be a full day out in the countryside and will require suitable clothing and footwear, and a packed lunch to eat 'in the field'.
- Refreshment and comfort facilities are available at the start and finish of this circular walk.

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd June Wroxeter Roman city and museum and Old Oswestry Hillfort on Saturday 22nd; Ironbridge Gorge Museums on Sunday 23rd

- These two days can be combined if you wish to have a weekend away & stay overnight in Shropshire, or you can participate on one or both days as individual daytrips.
- Each day is a full day and car sharing will be extremely helpful.

Old Oswestry hillfort is en route to Wroxeter and is a well-preserved large hilltop enclosure usually referred to as an Iron Age hillfort although it may well have originated in the Bronze Age and has such a large circuit of 'defences' that it was probably undefendable.

Wroxeter is a remarkably well-preserved ruined Roman city with a site museum and visitor facilities (English Heritage).

The Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Coalbrookdale near Telford take their name from Thomas Telford's Iron Bridge which still stands across the gorge of the River Severn. There are many different museums and sites, illustrating different industrial processes associated with ironworking, and there is a comprehensive 'Victorian town' to explore.

- Old Oswestry is owned by English Heritage and is open access. There is quite a steep climb (easy steps) at the entrance but the views are worth it from the top!
- Wroxeter and the Ironbridge Gorge Museums are all easy paths with visitor facilities.

Saturday 6th July Eastham Country Park & Eastham village: The country park contains the remains of the Eastham Ferry Pleasure Gardens, visited by Queen Victoria. Some remains (including the bear pit!) can still be seen or traced on the ground. There are also historic ferry points and good views across the Mersey. The nearby village of Eastham is one of the older settlements on the Wirral peninsula and contains some interesting old buildings.

- This is likely to be a half day excursion.
- It has good transport connections, the walking is flat and easy, and there are facilities in the park and hostelrys etc in the village.

Other Dates for your Diary in 2024

Saturday 23 March 2024 The local annual **Wirral History and Heritage Fair** will take place on in Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight.

MAS takes a stall here every year and it is a great opportunity to get involved in advertising the Society to potential new members and to network with many other heritage societies in the region. We will be calling for volunteers to staff the stall!

<https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/next-whha-event>

Friday 21st – Sunday 30th June 2024 The local annual **Chester Heritage Festival** will be held in various venues around the city.

You can sign up in advance to receive their newsletter which will advertise events as they become organised and available for booking.

<https://www.chesterheritagefestival.co.uk/>

Saturday 13 July – Sunday 28 July 2024 The theme of the national annual **Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Festival of Archaeology** will be **Archaeology and Community**.

You can sign up in advance to receive their newsletter which will advertise events as they become organised and available for booking, or you can simply check the website from time to time to see events as they become publicised.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html>

Friday 6th – Sunday 15th September **Heritage Open Days**

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

PLEASE contact Sue with information about **online resources** that you think other MAS members might be interested in.

And we would love to hear suggestions for **future summer fieldtrips** as well. Anywhere you've been recently that you think others would also enjoy (or sites on your hit list that you haven't made it to yet)?

Suggestions & Comments, please to: Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk