

## 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 <sup>st</sup>  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. <a href="https://www1.chester.ac.uk/news/archaeological-excavations-grosvenor-park">https://www1.chester.ac.uk/news/archaeological-excavations-grosvenor-park</a>
October Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>  COMPLETED	QMH	Warren Kern MAS	An illustrated talk (including some demonstration items) about local historic objects
November Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>  COMPLETED	ZOOM	Julie Franklin Headland Archaeology	<b>Life and death in a northern milltown: excavations at St Peter's Church, Blackburn</b> Archaeological excavations in 2015 on the site of the former St Peter's church rescued nearly 2000 human burials. The skeletons tell their stories of life in 19 <sup>th</sup> -century Blackburn, and the way they were buried reveals some unusual practices and beliefs.
December * Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> *  COMPLETED	ZOOM	Chair, members QuizMaster Mark Adams	Christmas social & Quiz  *PLEASE NOTE DATE* 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec
<b>January Thurs 18th</b>	ZOOM	<b>Scott Lloyd &amp; Jon Dollery RCAHMW</b>	<b>Current Welsh mapping project using placenames.</b> Update with a case study from NE Wales
February Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	QMH	3 student short talks	<b>Work in Progress talks by research students at Liverpool universities</b>
March Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	QMH	Mark Adams Headland, MAS	<b>Recent investigations at J M Worrall's Ordsall Lane dyeworks</b>
April Thurs 18th	QMH	Chair & members	<b>AGM + short talks by members</b>

## In-Person Get-Involved with Local Archaeology opportunity at Museum of Liverpool

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January** from 10.30am – 3.30pm with Curator **Vanessa Oakden**,  
[Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

### **Rainford Roots pottery marking**

In 2013 MAS worked in partnership with the Museum of Liverpool on the Rainford's Roots community archaeology project.

This was a National Lottery Heritage funded project which undertook archaeological investigations in the village of Rainford, near St Helens, to explore the post-medieval pottery and clay pipe manufacturing industries in the area.



Pottery from Rainford is now being marked by the Museum of Liverpool's archaeology team with its museum accession number.

If you would like to help with marking on **Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> January 10.30-3.30** and find out more about the collection, please get in touch with Curator Vanessa Oakden, [Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk).

And you can see more about the project here:

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/rainfords-roots>

## Forthcoming online talks

### **Two per week throughout 2023: Lancaster Museum 100 items podcasts**

These twice-weekly podcasts celebrating the Lancaster Museum's centenary can be listened to as soon as they are uploaded. The whole series is available on the website, so you can go back and see what you may have missed. They cover 50,000 years of interesting items in the museum's collection. And the final podcast is a seasonal stereograph (double photograph) of the River Lune frozen over in 1895!  
<https://visitlancaster.org.uk/museums/100-years-100-objects-a-century-of-lancaster-city-museums-podcast/>

### **Council for British Archaeology (CBA) celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm**

To mark the CBA's 80th Anniversary Year, the CBA's Executive Director, **Neil Redfern**, reflects on **the CBA's past, their role today, and the future of grassroots archaeology in the UK.**

The past 80 years have seen considerable shifts in archaeology. The very concept of archaeology and our perception of heritage have grown and evolved; commercial archaeology has blossomed, and community archaeology has benefited from substantial resources from the National Lottery. The internet and digital platforms now offer incredible reach and scope to further reimagine how we engage people and participants.

FREE but register in advance to receive the Zoom link:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/get-involved/events-and-activities/event-calendar/this-is-archaeology-the-cba-at-80-reflecting-on-our-past-and-our-role-today.html>

**The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Yorkshire** region introduced 'Fireside Chats' during lockdown and have continued these monthly zoom meetings ever since. They welcome people regardless of where you live or whether or not you are a Yorkshire CBA member.

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

The next three talks will be:

### **Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> January 2024 7.30 pm 'On My Doorstep' by Mike Turpin** Who says:

'This talk is somewhat different to the normal run of excellent talks by prominent archaeologists. I realised that within a very short radius of where I live near Leeds, there exists lots of archaeology and local historical interest. Some I have been involved with but much that I am aware of as well. My talk will be an introduction to these various sites and stories and I hope of general interest to a Fireside Chat Audience. Hopefully it might also inspire some of you [*including MAS members!*] to think in terms of a similar talk for the area in which you live.' [*or MAS Newsletter article!*]

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87909861816?pwd=Wkw1eGJocWtyS0dUTVYxVmpzZE5PZz09>

Meeting ID: 879 0986 1816

Passcode: 174300

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7.30 pm** Rebecca Gowland: **The Expendables: Skeletal Evidence for Child Labour and Exploitation in a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Yorkshire Mill.**

This talk explores the lives and deaths of a number of children excavated from a churchyard in the village of Fewston, North Yorkshire. Analysis of the skeletons showed evidence of stunted growth, as well as poor diet and disease, which marked them out as different when compared to the skeletons of individuals known (from coffin plates) to have been local to the area. Further detailed historical and biomolecular analysis revealed that these were the remains of children who were brought to Yorkshire from city workhouses (including London and Hull) to toil in the local textile factories. This is the first bioarchaeological evidence for 'pauper apprentices', and through the integration of a range of methods it pieces together their story.

Rebecca is a professor at Durham University. The project, that the talk is based on, has been nominated for the Current Archaeology Research Project of the Year 2024. Another fascinating topic from a different period which will provide plenty of thought provoking details about the Industrial Revolution.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82141941312?pwd=YXhTYmQrRTlqR1hqGhvb0VtTEdvdQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 4194 1312

Passcode: 959025

Any problems please contact [zoom@cba-yorkshire.org.uk](mailto:zoom@cba-yorkshire.org.uk)

**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 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 to 13<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023: Plato and the ideas of political office: see the recording

**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of justice**

Thurs 07<sup>th</sup> March 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of equality under the law

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024: Democracy: ancient models, modern challenges

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Experts in politics: lessons from Socrates and Aristotle

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Jun 2024: Plato's cave: thinking about climate change

**Evolution: The Big Questions**, Prof Robin May,

Weds 4<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> 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 04<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023: A small history of big evolutionary ideas: see the recording

Wed, 15 Nov 2023: Random chance in evolution

**Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024: Why is there only one species of human?**

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

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024: Artificial selection: How humans have shaped evolution

Weds 08<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Evolution tomorrow and beyond

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

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 to 5<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023: Ancient goddesses of sex and war: see recording

Weds 08<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023: Were there pagan goddesses in Christian Europe?

**Weds 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024: Dragons: a history**

Weds 06<sup>th</sup> March 2024: Ritual nudity in history and religion

Weds 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024: The western magical tradition

Weds 05<sup>th</sup> Jun 2024: Witch-hunting in European and world history

**Society of Antiquaries of London:**

**Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Past Online Talks

**Jon Dollery & Scott Lloyd** of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) will be speaking to MAS on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January** (see MAS programme on front page of this Bulletin) and they have recorded a previous talk about digitising data from early maps:  
**Deep mapping Estate Archives** [in NE Wales] available on the Commission's YouTube channel

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p80p1\\_srX0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p80p1_srX0)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December's **Society of Antiquaries of London** evening lecture by Ian Haynes about **Rome from the Principate to late Antiquity: lessons from the eastern Caelian** (a particular area within the city of Rome) is available to watch on their YouTube channel. I watched this live (it was hybrid) and they had problems with the microphone, so speakers' voices sometimes fade a bit. This is an update on a five-year research project and is worth watching for the visuals even if you are not particularly interested in ancient Rome! A major part of the project is the use of 3-D graphics and virtual reconstructions as 'provocations' eg could it have looked like this? Does this reflect the surviving evidence?

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdW1zR19oxD3JAPmkYWdU5g>

And don't forget that previous talks are also available on YouTube

**The regional Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Yorkshire Group** have been holding online monthly talks '**Fireside chats**' since the 2020 lockdown and these have proved so popular that they are still continuing them. Many are recorded and have been made freely available at:

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

The talks are not necessarily about Yorkshire although most of the sites are in the county. Some talks are about techniques eg aerial survey, lidar, geophysics, or artefacts etc. All talks are very accessible and enjoyable.

**York City Council's** annual **Archaeology of York conference** was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and is available to watch on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76a3ov7VNdY>

NB the 2022 York Archaeology conference (18<sup>th</sup> November 2022) is also available on video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9-uikXfG0A>

You can listen to **Mary Beard's** recent six-part radio series on **Being Roman** at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0gg56d5](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0gg56d5) (this link goes to a 3 min introduction, and provides the link to each of the six programmes eg 'Love in the Borderlands' (ie Hadrian's Wall), 'Rome's got talent', 'Battling Bureaucrats', 'What we lost in the fire')

The **Pendinas Community Archaeology Project** was begun in Spring 2023 by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in partnership with the Welsh Royal Commission (RCAHMW Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales). This project seeks to better understand and protect the archaeology and wildlife of the **hillfort**. There have been two exploratory excavations of the site in 2023 led by Dyfed Archaeological Trust working with a large team of volunteers and a full programme of community engagement led by the Royal Commission.

They had a festival celebrating the project in October that features a short (2 minutes) video that starts with a re-enactor blowing a carnyx (very long horn, depicted in some Iron Age art and also an example found in a prehistoric peat bog deposit in Wales) <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/pendinas-community-archaeology-festival-update/>

The RCAHMW Christmas lecture **Hillfort and Community 2023: The Pendinas project** is available to watch on their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/rcahmw>

Together with lots of others!



## Other online resources



### CHRISTMAS QUIZ



If you are not all quizzed-out, here is a seasonal **Bumper Christmas Quiz** from **English Heritage** to have a go at (anyone can access the quiz and the answers- you do not need to be an English Heritage member).

NB although it is on the 'kids' website, and the answers are multiple choice, I had to guess several (not necessarily successfully!).

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/quizzes-and-games/the-bumper-christmas-quiz>

### **Oxford Archaeology UPDATE for NEW WEBSITE with SEARCH ENGINE**

I was slightly too quick to advertise Oxford Archaeology's new website last month! All of the direct links I suggested still work perfectly well, but you can now interrogate and search the organisation's website using their new **Knowledge Hub** at:

<https://www.oxfordarchaeology.com/research-knowledge-hub>

I found it a little clunky to use but it gives access to 7000 items: reports, publications and archives and can be searched by archaeological period eg Neolithic, by the type of item (eg popular article, archive report, client report) or by geographical area using a map of the British Isles.

**American Archaeology magazine** has videos, slideshows and news articles that cover a range of topics and sites, including the British Isles eg a possible **Early Medieval monastic site in Scotland**, a flyby for **Fountain's Abbey**.

<https://www.archaeology.org/>

A few elaborate museum pieces are illustrated from a new exhibition at the Hong Kong Palace Museum: **Gazing at Sanxingdui: New archaeological discoveries in Sichuan** at:

[www.hkpm.org.hk/en/exhibition/gazing-at-sanxingdui-new-archaeological-discoveries-in-sichuan](http://www.hkpm.org.hk/en/exhibition/gazing-at-sanxingdui-new-archaeological-discoveries-in-sichuan)

and the same page has links to previous exhibitions. These are similarly brief but each highlights three particular exhibits

Less exotic-looking but equally interesting is the discovery that a Bronze Age (c 3,600 years ago) site at **Jirentaigoukou** in north-west China has produced the **earliest known evidence for the systematic exploitation of coal**: in almost every home, in storage pits and fireplaces, in places used for metallurgical activities, and near tool caches.

Published in Science Advances at <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adh0549>

If you were interested in the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec Society of Antiquaries of London talk by Ian Haynes about how the **eastern Caelian area in Rome** changed at the end of the Roman period, you can see a little more about the **Rome transformed** project at: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/rometrans/>

For Viking enthusiasts and those interested in the Battle of Brunanburh (considered by some to have been fought on the Wirral peninsula), there is an interesting critical consideration of Michael Wood's suggestion that the battle took place in Yorkshire. Wood argued in favour of this interpretation a few years ago at a public lecture at the University of Liverpool, where the audience was not particularly convinced. Nor is the author of this open access article in the journal English Studies:

Paul Cavil, 2023, **The Battle of Brunanburh: The Yorkshire Hypothesis**, *English Studies* Vol.104 (part 1), pages 19-38

Available digitally for free ie as Open Access at:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0013838X.2022.2154045>

From 2012-2018, Dr Rachel Pope of the Archaeology, Classics & Egyptology Department of the University of Liverpool, together with her co-directors Richard Mason & Jenn Danis, led student training excavations at the **late prehistoric (Bronze Age to Iron Age) 'hillfort' of Penycloddiau** in the Clwydian range of NE Wales. Several MAS members visited the excavations. The project's webpage has just been updated:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/archaeology-classics-and-egyptology/study/liverpool-archaeological-field-school/penycloddiau-hillfort/>

## 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>

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 **next summer's fieldtrips** as well.

Anywhere you've been this summer that you think others would also enjoy (or sites on your hit list that you haven't made it to yet)?



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



[Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023