

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

Our monthly series of winter evening talks resumed on the third Thursday of each month and take place from September 2022 – April 2023

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.

Details of the venue are here: <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 In the midwinter months (November, the December Christmas Quiz night, and January) our meetings are held on-line via Zoom, to avoid travel in inclement weather ('doors' open 7.15)

Programme for autumn/winter MAS talks.

DATE	venue	Speaker	Topic
Jan 19 th	ZOOM	Jane Kenney Gwynedd Arch. Trust (GAT)	The Landscape of Neolithic Axes Project: studying a major stone source for Neolithic axeheads in North Wales
Feb 16 th	In person QMH	Current research by students in Liverpool	Three talks by Liverpool students: George Downs. Autonomous itineraries: The future of archaeological tourism in Aegean Turkey, Catalonia and Merseyside. Emily Bowyer-Kazadi. Engaging with Archaeological Landscapes: Narratives from British National Parks Alex Bowers. Rickets, Resorption and Revolution: An investigation into the relationship between vitamin D deficiency in childhood and osteoporosis in adulthood in an 18th-19th century archaeological population.
March 16 th	In person QMH	Dave Roberts	Childwall Churchyard Survey: Present and Future Work https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/childwall-graves
April 20 th	In person QMH	AGM & Members' evening	Your chance to tell us about interesting things, places and ideas!

19th January: Jane Kenney is a very experienced field archaeologist and project manager working in North Wales for the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust ('GAT', based in Bangor). Besides being the director of major excavations such as the multi-period site at Parc Cybi, near Holyhead, Anglesey (Oxbow Books, 2021) she has worked on the research project studying the landscape of the Group VII (Graig Lwyd) Neolithic axe source near Llandygai. There have been important new finds and research evidence for UK Neolithic stone axe studies recently, and this talk will bring us up to speed with a 'local' source.

Forthcoming non-MAS online talks

NB several organisations are taking a break in January but you can catch up with recordings of previous talks (see details below)

The **Prehistoric Society** are continuing their online **Global Pasts** series of talks by worldwide specialists. FREE but register for each talk to obtain each link:

Monday 9th January 19.00 (7.00 – 8.30pm) Prof. Shanti Pappu ‘**A very special place**’ **Exploring Prehistoric Landscapes in southeast India** (this focuses on Palaeolithic evidence and sites).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-very-special-place-exploring-prehistoric-landscapes-in-southeast-india-tickets-491637871107>

Monday 6th February 19.00 (7.00 – 8.30pm) Dr Sada Mire: Title to be confirmed but she specialises in the archaeology of Somaliland and **N E Africa**

<https://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events/2023-02-06>

Monday 3rd April 19.00 (8.00 – 8.30pm) Prof Rebecca Ackermann and Dr Robyn Pickering **Human evolution research in South Africa: the role of HERI in shaking up our family tree**

<https://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events/2023-04-03>

The National Lottery Heritage Fund- sponsored **Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership** monthly Winter Webinars start again on 1st February

For full info about the project’s in-person & online events see:

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/Events/Default.aspx?CategoryTitle=westmorland-dales-events-2022&SubsiteTitle=westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership>

Wednesday 1st February 3.00pm Rebekah Booth **Churn Stands, Gate Stoops and Date Stones.**

Our Cultural Heritage Trainee, Rebekah Booth, will be giving a talk on the Small-scale Heritage Features project which she has led with volunteers this year. The surveys ran from March to August 2022 and included nine settlements in the Westmorland Dales. They focussed on those small-scale heritage features such as churn-stands, gate stoops and date stones which help give our villages a sense of place. The webinar will explore how the features recorded in each village vary, as well as the thematic links that can be made between them.

FREE but register to obtain link

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Event/churn-stands-gate-stoops-and-date-stones>

Sunday 5th February 8pm BBC 2 Digging for Britain will feature the Museum of Liverpool’s Community excavation at Piermaster’s Green on the 5th of February

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

Recordings of previous heritage webinars can be viewed at:

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Site/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership/Category/westmorland-dales-heritage-talks>

The **Gresham College** series of talks continue. There are many themes: if you want to see all of them (only some are historical/heritage themed; there are lots of social, ethical, medical & scientific themes as well) then look at their home website:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/lecture-series-2022-23>

The series of talks by Prof. Ronald Hutton on **Pagan ie pre-Christian gods of Europe** restarts in very early February (& continues until June).

This is the first series of three sets of lectures devoted to the perennial 'others' of the European Christian tradition, those phenomena which have always been present as active forces or cultural memories in Christian Europe and which theological orthodoxy has regarded as suspect. The first of the phenomena consists of the pre-Christian religions of Europe, defined in Christian tradition as paganism. These were suppressed as religious systems at the time of conversion to Christianity but elements of them survived as major components of literature, art and folklore.

The **two previous talks** in the series (Gods of prehistoric Britain; Paganism in Roman Britain) can be viewed at the same website as the new talks.

FREE but register to obtain the link:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/lost-gods>

The next two talks are:

Wednesday 1st February 18.00. Anglo-Saxon pagan gods. When the Western Roman Empire crumbled, the Anglo-Saxon peoples who occupied Britain brought their own paganism with them. This was Germanic, with a pantheon of deities that included Woden, Thunor, Tiw and Frig. Its temples were wooden structures that leave scant traces in the landscape, but you can find evidence for their beliefs in cemeteries like Sutton Hoo. This lecture looks at such evidence and at literature such as Beowulf and the history written by the Christian scholar Bede.

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/anglo-saxon-gods>

Wednesday 8th March 18.00 Viking pagan gods in Britain. The Norse and Danish invaders - commonly called Vikings - who occupied Britain in the ninth and tenth centuries, brought with them their own pagan gods. Odin, Thor, Tyr, Loki and Freya left their trace on the British landscape, in the form of scenes from their mythology carved on stone slabs, and Viking paganism has a further considerable legacy of material evidence in richly furnished graves, especially on the Isle of Man.

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/viking-gods>

As a heads up: there will be three talks by major specialists in February & March on the theme of **Ancient Landscapes of Britain**:

Thurs 23rd Feb - Mike Pitts on Stonehenge;

Weds 15 March - Martin Millett on Roman landscapes;

Thurs 23rd March - Helena Hamerow on the Medieval agricultural revolution

All at 18.00 ie 6.00pm. Details and FREE registration at:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/ancient-britain>

The School of Forensics and Archaeological Science at the University of Bradford is hosting a series of hybrid public guest lectures at roughly fortnightly intervals during the winter (missing Christmas/New Year)

There is a gap during December & January but seminars resume in February 2023 FREE but register to receive the link for each talk of interest (click on the talk's title)

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/archaeological-forensic-sciences/events/>

The next seminar will be:

Tuesday 14th Feb 5.30pm (ie 17.30) **Excavations at the migration period cemetery at Scremby, Lincolnshire** by Hugh Wilmott

Other online resources

Historic England publishes online the **Research Reports** that it has commissioned or undertaken in house.

A new development in 2022 is a quick list of 'what's new this year' & this includes:

Cheshire Aerial Investigation and Mapping Project: The Chester Environs (NB this is a 43.7 MB pdf file). Author: Joel Goodchild. Published 26 May 2022

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/14-2022>

and the latest edition of **Historic England's 'Research'** was published on 24th November

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-england-research-22/>

It contains articles about the **Staffordshire Hoard**; the **Iron Age Glastonbury Lake Village**; the **Neolithic Sweet Track in the Somerset Levels & potential effects of climate change**; the **experiences of disabled heritage professionals**; **facilitating access to maritime heritage**; and a checklist of **new Historic England Research Reports**.

The **eMuseum Himmelswege, Germany** is a new virtual museum that provides a range of resources to help you explore the story of the **Nebra Sky Disc** (one of the key exhibits in the recent **Age of Stonehenge** exhibition at the British Museum) and its connections to a network of significant contemporary sites in Saxony-Anhalt

www.emuseum-himmelswege.de/en

Via Trimontia & Trimontium Roman Fort , Scotland is a new mobile app by the Trimontium Trust that offers a virtual tour of the site with new imagery, reconstructions, stories and information about the fort:

www.trimontium.co.uk/trimontium-virtual-fort-app-launched

Or take a virtual tour of the **Battle of Culloden** courtesy of the **National Trust for Scotland** <https://virtual-visits.co.uk/battle-of-culloden>

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