

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:
 The next season of evening talks will resume (in-person) on Thursday 21st September

Summer fieldtrips 2023 April - September

If you are interested in attending any or all of them, **please contact the organiser of each outing that you wish to attend to register your interest.**

This provides the organiser with an indication of numbers involved, helps with coordinating travel arrangements, and means that you shouldn't get left behind anywhere!



More details of each outing will be provided to you after booking a place

WHEN	WHERE	MORE INFO	ORGANISER
Saturday 13 th May COMPLETED	Childwall All Saints Church & cemetery, Liverpool, L16 5EY	Explore the graveyard and hear about MAS's long-term recording and archive project	Dave Roberts
Saturday 3rd June	Ness Botanic Gardens & Experimental Archaeology (EARTH) Neston Rd, Ness CH64 4AY	Discuss the reconstructed henge and watch/take part in an experimental copper smelt Optional start at Burton village: vernacular houses, ice house, well	Sue Stallibrass Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk by 29 th May if possible
Saturday 15th July PLEASE NOTE DATE	Loggerheads Country Park, Ruthin Rd, Mold CH7 5LH	Explore a landscape altered by lead mining, limestone quarrying & associated water management features	Roy Forshaw Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk By 24 th June if possible
Friday 4th August	Lunt Meadows	Visit to site of Mesolithic settlement	Details to be confirmed
SUNDAY 3rd September	Birkenhead Park (am) tbc the Birkenhead Grasshopper pumping engine (pm)	Guided tour of the first public park in morning TBC visit the Grasshopper Pumping engine at Shore Road	Ann Gemmel ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com date to register tbc
Friday 8th – Sun 17th Sept:	Heritage Open Days The listings will go live on 1st June	You can sign up to receive their newsletter: https://www.heritageopen days.org.uk/visiting	IF St Helen's Church, Sefton is open, Sue Stallibrass will provide some car travel from the nearest train station
Thursday 21st September	Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool	MAS indoor evening lectures resume	

MAS Field Excursion to Burton village and Ness Gardens EARTH (Experimental Archaeology Research & Teaching Hub)

EARTH will be putting on a special demonstration for MAS members

Saturday 3rd June 2023

Burton village, Wirral	EARTH, Ness Gardens
	
Barn End, at the foot of The Rake, Burton Photo: Roy Forshaw 22 nd May 2023	One of the kilns/furnaces at EARTH Photo: Roy Forshaw 23 rd April 2023

Preliminary further information

Further details eg where to park + additional information about the day's activities will be provided by the event leader to registered participants

LOCATIONS: There are two parts to this excursion: Burton village (morning) and Ness Gardens Experimental Archaeology Hub (afternoon).

Please let Sue know if you wish to come for the whole day or to one half.

MORNING: meet at Burton village at 10.00 am at Burton Manor Gardens, Burton, Neston, Cheshire, CH64 5SJ.

Parking: We will probably have to park in various locations in the village (details will be sent to registered participants).

We will then drive via the post-medieval village well and washing place of Hampston's Well, past the site of St Andrew's Hospital, Denhall, to Ness Gardens.

AFTERNOON: Meet at 12.00 noon inside the entrance building to Ness Botanic Gardens, Neston Rd, Little Neston, Ness CH64 4AY. There is ample free parking at Ness Gardens.

ENTRANCE FEES: Ness Gardens is owned by the University of Liverpool. Students and the university's staff pay £1 entrance fee (remember to bring your student/staff card. This includes Liverpool Univ's Continuing Education students).

Concessions (over 60 years old or disabled) £6.50 Adults £7.50

Carers (accompanying a disabled person) Free.

TRANSPORT: car or public transport.

NOTE: Burton village no longer has a bus service. The nearest active bus stop is about 1.3 mile's away outside Ness Gardens. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO BURTON BUT DO NOT HAVE PRIVATE TRANSPORT**, PLEASE CONTACT SUE TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT FROM NESS GARDENS TO BURTON AND BACK AGAIN

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: The 487 bus runs to Ness Gardens every 30 mins from central Liverpool (St Thomas Street) leaving on the hour and half past each hour. It takes about an hour and a quarter and stops right outside the entrance to Ness Gardens. The hourly 22 bus from Chester (leaves at half past each hour and takes 30 – 40 minutes) stops about a mile away.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/visit/us/getting-here/>

ORGANISERS: The morning visit to Burton will be led by Sue Stallibrass with great assistance from Roy Forshaw (both MAS Events team members) and the afternoon visit to Ness Gardens will be led by Sue Stallibrass and Dr Peter Hommel of the University of Liverpool, who runs the EARTH project- Experimental Archaeology Research and Teaching Hub and is putting on the special event for MAS. <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/science,,,research/experimentalarchaeologyresearchandteachinghub/>

THE VISIT will include:

BURTON village: we will walk through the village looking at some of the varied vernacular architecture which owes a lot to the local natural building materials and the topographic location. We will then walk through the Burton Manor Gardens (run by volunteers) to see the post-medieval Ice House and consider the major changes to the shoreline and the Dee.

NESS GARDENS: We'll explore the replica 'Stonehenge' (at stages predating the famous trilithon circle) and some historical masonry items relocated from local sites.

Dr Peter Hommel will introduce us to the experimental archaeology hub (EARTH) which focuses on prehistoric pyrotechnics including making pottery and smelting metals.

Weather permitting, he will be undertaking a smelt of copper ore for us.

FACILITIES: Both Burton Manor Gardens and Ness Gardens have toilets and a café (open at 10.00am). They also have plant sales... <https://friendsofburtonmanorgardens.chessck.co.uk/>
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/visit/us/cafe/>

Ness Gardens has plenty of seating and suitable picnic spots if you want to bring your own refreshments. Walking at both sites is easy terrain with gently sloping paths.

BOOKING: to register your interest and book places, please email Sue Stallibrass

Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk by 29th May if possible, to receive further details

PLEASE indicate if you are interested in starting at Burton, which does not have public transport (we can try to arrange car share)

HAZARDS: Please wear sensible footwear. There are some gentle slopes in the gardens. When attending the experimental archaeology demonstration, you may want to bring a lightweight folding chair if you don't want to stand or sit on the grass.

Please avoid wearing flammable clothing (there may be sparks flying if it is breezy)



Preliminary further information (further details will be provided by the event leader to registered participants)

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE IS NOW **SATURDAY 15TH JULY**

LOCATION: Meet outside the café for a 10.30am start at Loggerheads Country Park, Ruthin Road, near Mold CH7 5LH Grid Ref: SJ200628

TRANSPORT: private cars. Parking costs £2.00 for 4 hours & £5.00 all day (recommended)

ORGANISER: The visit will be led by Roy Forshaw, MAS Past Chair

BOOKING: to register your interest and book places, please email Roy Forshaw at Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk by 30th June if possible, to receive further details.

NB This walk will also be offered to Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society and numbers will be limited to 15 people, so please contact Roy to book your place a.s.a.p.!

TIMINGS: the visit will take about 4 to 5 hours. Please bring food and drink.

FACILITIES: there is a visitor centre, toilets and a café (open 10 – 4) at the start and finish of the walk.

THE VISIT will include: A watermill (sometimes in motion) beside the visitor centre, followed by a walk of approximately 4 miles over paths with optional detours into undergrowth and up slopes to look at building remains. The main path is flat and wheel friendly. We will not go into any mine workings but there is a chance to see inside the entrance of one or two.

The valley is filled with remains of lead mining and limestone quarrying, and water management features (weirs, leats, pumps etc) along the River Alyn

HAZARDS: Please wear sensible footwear and bring sunscreen, waterproofs etc.

AUGUST NO MAS FIELD TRIP (summer holiday season) BUT there is a possibility of visiting **Lunt Meadows (site of Mesolithic settlement)** on the day that the Museum of Liverpool Emerging Archaeologists (MoLEA) visit on **Friday 4th August**. MoLEA is an exciting new opportunity for young people aged 16-24 to gain direct hands-on experience of their local archaeology. These sessions are especially tailored for young people such as Young Archaeologists Club leavers and others who would like to try out archaeology before applying to formally study it. Merseyside Archaeology Society has grant-aided some of their August field activities. **Please check next month's Bulletin for further details.**
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/lunt-meadows-sefton>

SUNDAY 3rd September Birkenhead Park +/- an industrial monument in Birkenhead



<https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/photos/birkenhead-park> accessed 3rd May 2023

Please contact **Ann Gemmel** ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com to express interest, to help her book the guided talk in Birkenhead Park

<p>SUN 3rd Sept</p>	<p>Birkenhead Park (in morning) & (provisionally) the U-Boat experience and/or the Giant Grasshopper pumping engine in the afternoon.</p> <p>BigHeritage have taken on the U-Boat & Dean Paton gave a talk to MAS in October about the regeneration of heritage venues in Birkenhead</p>	<p>We are planning to have a guided walk around the historic Birkenhead Park in the morning by one of the rangers. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birkenhead_Park#:~:text=Birkenhead%20Park%20is%20a%20major,civic%20park%20in%20the%20world.</p> <p>Members can then choose whether or not to stay for an afternoon visit to the U-boat Experience and/or the Giant Grasshopper steam engine at the Shore Road pumping station (built for the railway tunnel under the Mersey) https://bigheritage.co.uk/the-u-boat-story/</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shore_Road_Pumping_Station</p>	<p>Leaders : Ann Gemmell (am) & Roy Forshaw (pm)</p> <p>TRANSPORT: plenty of public transport links to Birkenhead, but carshare might be helpful moving between venues.</p>
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Friday 8th – Sunday 17th September: Heritage Open Days

This is the annual festival that sees many heritage sites and venues in UK either open to the public when they are usually not accessible, or open for extra times and/or special events <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> NB The list of events goes live on Thursday 1st June

<p>Fri 8th – Sun 17th Sept</p> <p>Exact date tbc</p>	<p>INFORMAL VISIT:</p> <p>St Helens church, Sefton https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-helen-sefton</p> <p>St Helens Church, Sefton contains many interesting features and is usually specially accessible for one or two days during the annual festival of Heritage Open Days.</p>	<p>Organiser: Sue Stallibrass</p> <p>TRANSPORT: car (public transport extremely difficult)</p> <p>Sue intends to visit the church (for the first time) on a Heritage Open Day. When the date is confirmed, she can offer to pick up three people at a pre- arranged time from Blundellsands & Crosby train station (Merseyrail, Northern Line).</p>
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And if you have any ideas of other outings that you would like MAS to organise next year, then please let Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk know!

Forthcoming online talks

York’s annual Festival of Ideas will include 30 online events between Monday 5th – Thursday 15th June

(several occur on some days, so make sure you note the time!)

Some will be available as recordings at later dates (but I don’t know which)

Full listing available here:

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2023/calendar/online/>

FREE but register separately for each talk

Heritage themed talks include:

Monday 5th June 1 – 2pm Gillian Walters: **Re-imagining Cartimandua. The original Queen Guinevere?**

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2023/calendar/cartimandua-guinevere/>

Monday 5th June 6 -7pm Eleanor Parker: **Winters in the World. A journey through the Anglo-Saxon year.**

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2023/calendar/winters-in-the-world/>

Monday 5th June 8 – 9pm Philip ‘Maty’ Matyszak: **Forgotten peoples of the ancient world**

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2023/calendar/forgotten-peoples-ancient-world/>

Wednesday 7th June 1 – 2pm Sally-Ann Shearn: **To see life as our ancestors lived it. Imagining a folk park for York**

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2023/calendar/folk-park-for-york/>

Gresham College's series of expert talks by Prof Ronald Hutton about **pre-Christian religions in Britain** has one more talk in the series

NB recordings of the whole series are available online at:

[Finding Britain's Lost Gods \(History of Religion\)](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/history-of-religion/)

Wednesday 7th June 6 – 7pm Ronald Hutton: How pagan was Medieval Britain?

FREE but register to receive link

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/medieval-pagan>

York's Festival of Ideas (cont.)

Thursday 8th June 7-8pm Ethan Doyle White: **Pagans: The visual culture of pagan myths, legends and rituals**

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2023/calendar/pagans-visual-culture/>

Friday 9th June 6-7pm Duncan Sayer (of UCLan): **Ancient DNA and the Anglo-Saxon migration: community and burial practice AD 450 - 750**

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2023/calendar/ancient-dna-migration/>

Don't forget that **Lancaster's City Museum** has launched a **free** podcast series to celebrate their centenary. "[100 Years, 100 Objects](https://www.lancastercitymuseum.org.uk/100-years-100-objects/)" explores the collections to shed light on the history of the city through well-known highlights and hidden gems.

Each week, two 10-minute podcasts will be broadcast covering a broad range of objects and their stories throughout the anniversary year of 2023. These are eclectic, highly varied, and all are informative and fun. May's included a neolithic stone axe and a medieval hag stone (to ward off witches etc)

You can also access the podcasts on Amazon Music or Spotify if you prefer.

The Shindig is an ongoing free podcast series by the Red River Archaeology group where new discoveries or techniques are discussed. These vary in length. Some are substantial talks of about an hour. The latest at time of writing is **Mapping the Vikings** by Tenaya Jorgensen, where she discusses two main areas of activities & influence: the Irish Sea/Atlantic and the North Sea/English Channel.

<https://shows.acast.com/shindig>

Past online talks

The **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** makes many talks available online. They are not necessarily about Scotland, and topics are varied, with probably something interesting for everyone, whether prehistoric artefacts, craft-making techniques, religious sites, early modern Glaswegian potteries and their export network or archives and art.

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

Other online resources

Mark Adams, a long serving MAS Council member and former Chair, has created a guest blog about **Thomas Blackburne and Newton Hall** based on the 2005 excavation of the site by Museum of Liverpool and his own detailed documentary research. This turned into quite a detective story and cautionary tale (don't believe everything you read!) about early post-medieval families, individuals and sites.

<https://bygoneliverpool.wordpress.com/2023/04/26/guest-blog-thomas-blackburne-and-newton-hall/>

The first discovery of a **wooden writing tablet at Vindolanda Roman fort and vicus** (extra-mural civilian settlement) was made 50 years ago. Tablets continue to be found in the ongoing excavations at the site which is just south of Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. A new research project called "**The making of the Vindolanda wooden writing tablets**" is being undertaken by the British Museum to learn more about how the Vindolanda tablets were produced.

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/research/projects/making-vindolanda-tablets>

Deep monitoring probes have been installed at **Vindolanda to measure changes in ground water levels and water quality** (which affect the preservation of organic remains such as wood and leather items). Changes in ground water are associated with changes in climate and land use and can be extremely detrimental to buried archaeology (at a global scale: Vindolanda is a pioneer for the research).

<https://www.vindolanda.com/blog/monitoring-the-buried-archaeology-of-vindolanda>

And while you're there, check out **Vindolanda's blogs, videos and lots of other online resources including visitor information.**

<https://www.vindolanda.com/>

This year's digging season runs from 3rd April to 23rd September with visitors welcome Monday to Friday and the website has a video summarising the results of last year's excavations

<https://www.vindolanda.com/Event/2023-excavationsvindolanda>

The full run of Lancashire Archaeological Society's **Lancashire Archaeological Bulletins (1975 – 1990)** has been digitised by Peter Iles and Joanne Smith of the Lancs Historic Environment Team and is now freely available on the LAS website. Up to six times a year, Margaret and Ben Edwards wrote and published the *Lancashire Archaeological Bulletin* (LAB), intended to keep people in Lancashire up-to-date with what was going on in archaeology in the county, in a typed and duplicated subscription journal, profusely illustrated, mainly with Ben's drawings. It provides a treasure trove of information, dating long before the Portable Antiquities Scheme. There are two searchable indexes – Subject and Volume number. Or just browse to make interesting discoveries.

<https://bit.ly/3KcljJw>.

Dig It Scotland is a website well worth exploring if you are interested in **Scotland's historic sites and archaeology** is. They have well-illustrated & informative articles such as **Who were the Celts?** Other pages list loads of Dig It events, they have a comprehensive YouTube channel and there are nine sites recreated in Minecraft. They are currently working on a games-based project and you can sign up for a monthly newsletter.

<https://www.digitScotland.com/who-were-the-celts/>

and if geology is of interest (relevant to landuse, environment & glaciation, mineral exploitation, industrial archaeology etc) then check out the **British Geological Society's** website which now includes an accessible archive of all their scanned **geological maps, including the detailed 1:10k**

News Story and link to entire archive:

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/bgs-releases-10k-maps-through-updated-maps-portal/>

Link to 1:10K maps:

<https://webapps.bgs.ac.uk/data/MapsPortal/series.html?collection=NGMAP&series=10k>

Virtual visits:

Tomb of Nebemmaat, Egypt: explore the burial place of Nebemmaat and his wife Mertesger in the ancient Egyptian village of Deir el-Medina, home to the artisans who built the tombs in the Valley of Kings

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/TwWh32Y6y-QcrQ>

Clifford's Tower, York: Originally built by William the Conqueror, the tower had many uses, some of them shocking. The website provides a virtual tour of the tower itself and views of the surrounding area

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/cliffords-tower-york/history-and-stories/virtual-tour

TV series to catch on-line:

Fortress Britain: hosted by Alice Roberts, this series looked at Britain's structures built to defend the country from invasions of various periods. Four episodes of 47 minutes each: The Norman Conquest period, Henry VIII's reign, the Cold War, Hitler's plans in WWII.

www.channel4.com/programmes/fortress-britain-with-alice-roberts

Jonathan Ross's Myths and Legends: Four episodes of 47 minutes each, looking at local legends eg Northern England (Whitby & Dracula, Mother Shipton's Cave etc), Wales (fables including the Green Man, Llyn y Fan Fach's lady etc), the Isle of Skye (fairie folk, warrior queen Scáthach, kelpies, Nessie etc), South west England (knockers, Morgan Le Fay, King Arthur, piskies and the Beast of Bodmin).

www.channel4.com/programmes/jonathan-ross-myths-and-legends/on-demand/74411-001

Bettany Hughes' Treasures of the World (second series): Eight programmes of 47 minutes each: Arabia, Jordan, Cyprus, Turkey (Troy etc), Turkey (Anatolia), Albania, Oman, Azerbaijan

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/bettany-hughes-treasures-of-the-world>

NB News flash re Treasure Act in Britain: On 30th March 2023 the proposed **changes to the Treasure Act were passed by Parliament and will become law on 30th July 2023.** This covers England, Wales & Northern Ireland (Scotland has its own Treasure Trove laws).

There will be an article about this important change in a forthcoming MAS Newsletter

Dates for your diary (mostly in-person events but some may be hybrid)

Saturday 17th – Wednesday 28th June Chester Heritage Festival

The theme will be Chester as a persistent place with local, regional, national and transnational connections, and speakers will cover the periods from prehistory to the post-medieval.

Check out their website to see what's on when! The website also provides (in advance) several new digital items associated with the festival

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

Saturday 24th June 10.00 – 16.30 Chester Archaeology Conference, Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor St, Chester CH1 2DD

Talks cover: Bronze Age settlement from the Clwyds to the Cheshire sandstone ridge; A regional type of Roman 'bling' - Wirral brooches; The Cheshire region as a strategic frontier in the early Medieval period; continental links of Chester and the cult of St Ursula in the later Middle Ages; geographical links of early post-medieval pottery assemblages in Chester.

Tickets cost £20 for non-members (£15 for Chester Arch Soc members) and are bookable here:

<https://www.chesterheritagefestival.co.uk/event-details/archaeology-conference>

15th – 30th July The Council for British Archaeology's (CBA's) annual Festival of Archaeology

this year the festival's theme is **Archaeology and Creativity**.

The call for organisers to register their events has just gone out, and events will be listed when they are confirmed. Please remember to check back closer to July. Meanwhile, you can access **resources created for last year's festival** at the same webpage:

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

Wirral Vikings (aka Wirhalh Skip Felagr - The Wirral Ship Fellowship) will be holding their annual **Viking festival of re-enactments & demonstrations** at three different venues:

Saturday & Sunday 24th & 25th June **Heskin Hall Viking Festival**

Venue: Wood Lane, Chorley, PR7 5PA

Saturday & Sunday 12th & 13th August **Upton Viking Festival.**

Venue: Warwick Park, Upton, Wirral

Come and see the harsh realities of life for Wirral's Hiberno-Norse Vikings & their Saxon neighbours. The Festival consists of Viking re-enactment, Craft stalls and

attractions, Children's fair.
FREE ENTRY

Friday 8th – Sunday 17th September: Heritage Open Days

THE LIST OF EVENTS GOES LIVE ON 1ST JUNE

many are free to attend, but some have limited numbers so book early!

This is the annual festival that sees many heritage sites and venues in UK either open to the public when they are usually not accessible, or open for extra times and/or for special events.

One of this year's Highlights publicised in their monthly online newsletter is a visit to Williamson's Tunnels, Edge hill, Liverpool.

The programme of specific events & opening times will go live online on 1st June.
See:

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

15th - 17th September 2023 The **Society for Church Archaeology Annual Conference 2023: The Church in North West Britain and its Connections**

The society's conference are open to all and anyone interested is welcome to participate.

<https://www.churcharchaeology.org/conferences>

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

Many thanks to Maurice Handley for the information about digitised Lancashire Archaeological Bulletins being made available on their website.

Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk 31st May 2023