

## 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	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 <sup>th</sup> -century human burials.
December * Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> * COMPLETED	ZOOM	Chair, members QuizMAster Mark Adams	Christmas social & Quiz  *PLEASE NOTE DATE* 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec
January Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 15 <sup>th</sup>	QMH	student short talks	Work in Progress talks by research students at Liverpool universities
<b>March Thurs 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>QMH</b>	<b>Mark Adams Headland, MAS</b>	<b>Recent investigations at J M Worrall's Ordsall Lane dyeworks</b>
<b>April Thurs 18th</b>	<b>QMH</b>	<b>Chair &amp; MEMBERS</b>	<b>AGM + short talks by members  HAVE YOU GOT A 10 MINUTE TALK ON SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU?</b>

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) or [Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

## **Forthcoming IN PERSON FREE Public Lecture in Liverpool**

### **Tuesday 19 March at 3pm Prof. Peter Sarris: **Justinian: Emperor, Soldier, Saint****

The talk is jointly hosted by the Department of Archaeology, Classics & Egyptology & the Liverpool Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Liverpool.

**Venue:** The talk will take place in room 126MP-113.

NB This is 126 Mount Pleasant, where the Continuing Education dept used to be located, near the Catholic cathedral). This venue is Building 114 (C4) on the campus map:

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

The talk is open to the public and to all University of Liverpool staff and students (including Continuing Education students).

Attendance is FREE, but tickets need to be booked:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nullt-pqgelev/peter-sarris-on-justinian-emperor-soldier-saint/e-ragmmj>

Peter Sarris is Prof. of Late Antique, Medieval and Byzantine Studies at the University of Cambridge. He has published extensively on the social, economic and legal history of Late Antiquity, the Early Middle Ages and Byzantium, with a particular focus on the political economy of the East Roman Empire from the fourth to sixth centuries, the transmission of Roman economic and legal culture, and the background to the rise of Islam. He is also a leading authority on the 'Plague of Justinian' and the 'Age of Justinian' more generally. **Justinian: Emperor, Soldier, Saint** is the title of his latest book.

## **Forthcoming IN PERSON FREE Public Lecture in Liverpool**

the inaugural ANNUAL BRUNNER LECTURE IN EGYPTOLOGY

open to the public and to members of the University

### **Thursday 21 March at 5.15 pm**

**Professor Dimitri Laboury,**

Chair of Ancient Egyptian Art History at the University of Liège, Belgium

### **The Art of Writing: Ancient Egyptian Artists and the Origins of Alphabet**

**Dimitri Laboury** specializes in the study of Ancient Egyptian cultural history through the art of the Pharaonic civilization. During this last decade, he has devoted most of his research efforts to the analysis of painterly practices in the Theban Necropolis, a famous site on the UNESCO world heritage list, and more generally on the study of artists, their role and status in ancient Egypt. He has spent most of his career as a researcher of the Belgian National Foundation for Scientific Research – FNRS at the University of Liège, Belgium, where he has recently been appointed as full professor for a newly created Chair of Ancient Egyptian Art History.

The talk is hosted by the Dept. of Archaeology, Classics & Egyptology, University of Liverpool.  
The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception.

**Venue:** The talk will take place in room **502 Central Teaching Hub, Lecture Theatre 3.**

This venue is Building 502 (D6) on the campus map:

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

The talk is open to the public and to all University of Liverpool staff and students (including Continuing Education students).

Attendance is FREE, but tickets need to be booked:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/liverpool/502-teaching-hub-lecture-theatre-3/brunner-lecture-in-egyptology-prof-dimitri-laboury/e-ragvxb>

## Follow-up details for our two excellent talks at our February evening lecture series

**Louise O'Brien** spoke about the mummy portraits from Hawara in the Fayum area of Ancient Egypt: **Mysterious, Morbid, or Multicultural? Mummy Portraits and Hybrid Identity in Roman Egypt**

Louise took numerous questions after her talk, and is willing to take further enquiries: please contact Sue in the first instance, who will pass on your messages ([Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) )

If you want to find out more about collections and studies of the mummy portraits, try the **Getty Museum's APPEAR project** which investigates artworks using art-historical and scientific techniques eg pigment compounds, choices of wood, portrait conventions....

<https://www.getty.edu/publications/mummyportraits/#:~:text=Mummy%20Portraits%20of%20Roman%20Egypt%20Emerging%20Research%20from%20the%20APPEAR%20Project&text=Once%20interred%20with%20mummified%20remains,lived%20two%20thousand%20years%20ago.>

The contents page is here:

<https://www.getty.edu/publications/mummyportraits/contents/>

**University College London (UCL) holds the Petrie Museum. See:**

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/petrie-museum>

**Anna Fairley** spoke about the local community project led by members of the University of Liverpool's Department of Archaeology, Classics & Egyptology in Toxteth: **Archaeological investigations at St Patrick's Church, Toxteth, 2022-2023.**

They expect to undertake further work this year, in advance of repair work to the site which will require groundwork investigations.

NB MAS hopes to be able to visit the site, although not necessarily when the works are being undertaken as there may be health and safety constraints.

You can email Anna at [a.j.fairley@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.fairley@liverpool.ac.uk) if you would like to be added to the mailing list for information about future excavations at St Patrick's, or follow her on X @annaandthedead

They have published an open access article in the journal Heritage:

Mytum H, Philpott R, Nielsson A.F, Burwood E & Dark N. 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, 5, 3298-3315

<https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage5040169>

An article focusing on the vaults and coffins will be published later this year in the journal of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology (I'll try to include the reference when it is published!)

St Patrick's has also been the topic of a book on its history and its parishioners (it is the oldest Catholic church still in use in Liverpool).

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45594>

Michael O'Neill, 2022 **St Patrick's, Park Place, Liverpool - A Parish History - 1821-2021** published by Gracewing priced £14.99. ISBN 978 085244 981 3.

## Forthcoming online talks

**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 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

**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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7.30 pm** Prof 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. A fascinating topic which will provide plenty of thought-provoking details about the Industrial Revolution.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82141941312?pwd=YXhTYmQrRTlqR1hqcGhvb0VtTEdvQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 4194 1312

Passcode: 959025

As usual the Waiting Room will be open from 7.15 pm; meeting starts at 7.30 pm.

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

## Society of Antiquaries of London:

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Prof Ian Ralston & Dr Roger Miket  
**Brian Hope-Taylor (1923-2001) and Northumbria: a centenary re-assessment of excavations and interpretations at Yeavinger and Doon Hill, Dunbar**

FREE but register in advance or watch later on YouTube

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/brian-hope-taylor-1923-2001-and-northumbria-a-centenary-re-assessment-of-excavations-and-interpretations-at-yeavinger-and-doon-hill-dunbar/>

## Past Online Talks

**Society of Antiquaries of London:** many of their live-streamed talks are available afterwards on their YouTube channel at

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdW1zR19oxD3JAPmkYWdU5g?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdW1zR19oxD3JAPmkYWdU5g?view_as=subscriber)

They include a different talk, about excavations at **Yeavinger**, by another member of the research project **Sarah Semple** on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## Other online resources

The three-year (2021-2024) project: **Yeavinger, A palace in its landscape** is led by a team from Durham University (see the Society of Antiquaries of London talk on March 7<sup>th</sup>). This important hilltop location was occupied during the later prehistoric period, the Roman Iron Age and the Anglian 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD/CE

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/archaeology/research/archaeology-research-projects/yeavinger/>

DigVentures, a crowd-sourced organisation (where you pay to take part in an excavation) has recently excavated part of an **Iron Age village site near Abingdon**, Oxfordshire. A roundhouse has been radiocarbon dated to 771-515 BC/BCE and contains various finds relating to **iron working**, including hearth lining, slag, hammerscale and a complete very large tuyere (the clay connection piece that seals the bellows point where it enters the interior of the furnace). They speculate that this must have been used for making unusually large iron items and that this might be the base for a specialist 'elite' blacksmith rather than a usual village-scale smithy.

[https://digventures.com/2024/02/oxfordshire-dig-reveals-2700-year-old-secrets-of-britains-early-master-blacksmiths/?mc\\_cid=c796ee555f&mc\\_eid=7e2d7d773b](https://digventures.com/2024/02/oxfordshire-dig-reveals-2700-year-old-secrets-of-britains-early-master-blacksmiths/?mc_cid=c796ee555f&mc_eid=7e2d7d773b)

**National Museum of Beirut, Lebanon** This is an interactive 3D model of the galleries. To be honest, I found it a bit dizzying: it plays rather fast, but you can pause it to click on one of the highlighted exhibits. And the antiquities are stunning.

[www.matterport.com/discover/space/Fn4vQYVA4wd](http://www.matterport.com/discover/space/Fn4vQYVA4wd)

**Karnak, Egypt** the University of California has compiled a digital resource with information, short videos, further reading etc. Use the MENU to find what you are looking for or just to browse.

<https://digitalkarnak.ucsc.edu>



### **Museum of Natural Sciences, Belgium**

NB this is one of numerous google's artsandculture websites featuring museums etc  
<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/royal-belgian-institute-of-natural-sciences>

Although the museum is mostly concerned with the natural world, it includes early human ancestors with visualisations of what individuals may have looked like  
<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/pgVBmbqGPWhsKw>

**The Old village of Hollókő and its surroundings, Hungary** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed because it is a 'living example of rural life before the agricultural revolution of the 20<sup>th</sup> century'. Chocolate box photos of a village that has clearly been converted to a tourist attraction! But you may find yourself following links to other WHS featured in a similar manner, or using Home to link to other google artsandculture sites.

[https://artsandculture.google.com/story/-AXRqT\\_TN74Dgw](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/-AXRqT_TN74Dgw)

**EXARC is an association of archaeologists interested in experimenting** to find out the practicalities of trying to do or make things that we find evidence for at archaeological sites. They hold conferences and events at open air museums, and also have a wide range of podcasts where you can hear about people's attempts to make glue like the Neanderthals (to haft their tools), use mud to build structures, what remains to expect from a cremation, changes in hairstyles through time and culture...

[www.exarc.net/podcast](http://www.exarc.net/podcast)

From the podcast page you can go to 'home' where you can also access their journal issues and find out about events including conferences and workshops.

<https://exarc.net/journal/issues-overview>

EXARC is an international organisation that started in London and some of the 2024 workshops will be in the UK:

3<sup>rd</sup> March Woven skin-on-frame boat (Devon/Somerset)

4<sup>th</sup> May Bronze and Iron Age dugout canoe (Devon/Somerset)

25-27 May Auxilia: Rome's cutting edge (at the Park in the Past, Hope, Wrexham)

<https://parkinthepast.org.uk/the-roman-fort-project/>

27-28 July Dark Ages weekend (Ancient Technology Centre ATC UK at Cranborne, Dorset: worth checking out their website at:

<https://ancienttechnologycentre.com/>

21-22 Sept Apple days (Ancient Technology Centre ATC UK)

**Internet Archaeology** is an open access online archaeological journal that publishes articles on many different topics. Vol 61 in 2023 includes: the Palaeolithic and Pleistocene (a giant Acheulean handaxe, Pin Hole Cave Creswell (Notts/Derby border), Roman silver coinage, Anglo-Saxon food, medieval deposits at Pontefract Castle, and a short-lived Scottish whisky distillery.

<https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue61/index.html>

## TV programmes

A series (**New**) of three one-hour episodes of **Lost Temples of Cambodia**, which looks at the origins of the ancient Khmer civilisation, started broadcasting on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 8.20. Watch the third episode live on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March on Channel 4, or catch up with all three at:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/lost-temples-of-cambodia>

A repeat of **Raiders of the Lost Past with Janina Ramirez** (Series 1, three one-hour programmes) was broadcast on Saturdays in February on BBC 4 and is available on iPlayer at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m0008569/raiders-of-the-lost-past-with-janina-ramirez>

And the recent four-episode series of one-hour programmes on **Ancient Egypt by train with Alice Roberts** has also been repeating, on Channel 4 on Sundays at 6.45pm. Watch the broadcast of the final episode on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March or all episodes at:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/ancient-egypt-by-train-with-alice-roberts>

NB all of these websites have links to other, similar programmes that you might find interesting.



**MAS summer fieldtrip programme** (as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024)

	WHERE	MORE INFO	ORGANISER
<p><b>April Sat 20<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Fort Perch Rock &amp; Magazine Brow, New Brighton</b></p> <p>To see the 1829 fortification (originally built to provide defence during the Napoleonic wars + a lighthouse at the mouth of the Mersey).</p> <p>Then heading to Magazine Brow, the site of a gunpowder battery.</p> <p>Plus a walk around Magazines Village which dates back to Jacobean times at its core</p>	<p><b>Meet at the Floral Pavilion at 10.00 am</b></p> <p>Address: Marine Parade, New Brighton CH45 2JS.</p> <p>There are toilets and a café in the foyer of the Floral Pavilion.</p> <p>The visit will take about 2 to 3 hours. Bring your own lunch or buy at local cafes and pubs.</p>	<p><b>Ann Gemmell + Roy Forshaw</b></p> <p><b>TO BOOK:</b> please contact Ann at <a href="mailto:ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com">ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com</a></p> <p><b>Deadline for booking: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>TRANSPORT:</b> car or public transport. New Brighton railway station (Merseyrail) is about 15 minutes' walk away.</p> <p><b>MEET:</b> in the foyer of the Floral Pavilion at 10.00 am <a href="https://www.floralpavilion.com/">https://www.floralpavilion.com/</a></p> <p><b>FURTHER DETAILS AT END OF THIS BULLETIN</b></p>
<p><b>May Sat 18<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Pimbo &amp; Upholland</b></p> <p>This area, formerly all in the old county of Lancashire, saw tremendous changes in the post-medieval period when wetland drainage allowed agricultural development and the natural stone, coal and clay resources were exploited on an industrial scale</p>	<p><b>Post-medieval mining &amp; farming landscape</b></p> <p><b>MEET:</b> in the small layby close to Upholland train station at NGR SD 51000375</p> <p>There are no facilities during the walk, which will take about 4.5 hours. We aim to be back in Pimbo about 3.0pm</p>	<p><b>Roy Forshaw &amp; Sue Stallibrass</b></p> <p><b>TO BOOK:</b> please contact Roy at <a href="mailto:roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk">roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Deadline for booking: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>TRANSPORT:</b> public transport is slow but feasible (see details below) <b>Car:</b> Please consider car sharing to minimise parking issues</p> <p><b>MEET:</b> We will leave prompt at 10.30 am and recommend arriving at 10.00am to take advantage of the café at the Pimbo Garden Centre</p> <p><b>FURTHER DETAILS AT END OF THIS BULLETIN</b></p>

June Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> & Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Old Oswestry &amp; Wroxeter</b>  <b>Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Ironbridge Gorge Museums</b>	<b>Old Oswestry:</b> later prehistoric 'hillfort' Wroxeter Roman City + Museum  <b>Ironbridge Gorge Museums</b>	<b>Sue Stallibrass + Mark Adams</b> <a href="mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverppool.ac.uk">Sue.Stallibrass@liverppool.ac.uk</a> Further details to follow later. These are two full days out and can be combined or undertaken individually  <b>TRANSPORT: Car sharing</b> highly recommended
Sat July 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Eastham Country Park &amp; Eastham Village, Wirral</b>	<b>Victorian Pleasure Park, historic village</b>	<b>Ann Gemmell</b>  <b>TRANSPORT:</b> public transport or car
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>
Sept	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> MAS evening talk (in person)</b>
October	SAT 5 <sup>th</sup> OCT	<b>MAS CONFERENCE</b>	<b>AIM 2024</b>
October	Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> MAS evening talk (in person)</b>

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.

### **MAS 2024 summer fieldtrips at a glance:**

More details will be available to registered participants (so please book with the relevant organiser!) for each specific walk, but here's an introduction:

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- A half day (Saturday morning)

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Wroxeter Roman city and museum and Old Oswestry Hillfort on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>;**

**& Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Ironbridge Gorge Museums on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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>

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024** The **Council for British Archaeology (CBA)** North West group will be holding their annual **spring conference** in Liverpool. Venue to be finally confirmed, but probably the Quaker Meeting House (where MAS holds evening talks). CBA NW = Merseyside, Cheshire, Lancashire & Greater Manchester

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September** **Heritage Open Days**

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

**Saturday 05<sup>th</sup> October** **Archaeology in Merseyside (AIM) 2024 conference**

This is the biennial conference organised by Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS ie us!). Lots of talks and activities. To be held in the Museum of Liverpool

**HOLD THE DATE!**

Full programme of speakers and activity sessions in the April Bulletin

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** in 2025

Suggestions & Comments, please to: [Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk)

Bulletin compiled: 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**New Brighton & Fort Perch Rock**



**Preliminary further information** (registered participants will receive further details)

**LOCATION:** We meet at 10.00 at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton, which is opposite Fort Perch Rock. Address is Marine Parade, New Brighton CH45 2JS. There are toilets and a café in the foyer of the pavilion.

**TRANSPORT:** car or public transport. New Brighton train station is approximately 15 minutes walk away. There is a bus stop outside Morrisons supermarket.

**ORGANISER:** The visit will be led by Ann Gemmell with Roy Forshaw

**BOOKING:** to register your interest and book places, please email before Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April: [ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com)

**TIMINGS:** the visit will take about 2 to 3 hours and lunches could be bring your own or obtained in the local cafes.

**FACILITIES:** Floral Pavilion has toilets and a café. There are various pubs and cafes along the route. And New Brighton railway station also has toilets.

**THE VISIT will include:**

A visit to Fort Perch Rock. This fortification was built in 1829 and contained 16 x 32 pound guns when first constructed. It has undergone many changes over the years and was manned during WWI and WWII.

There may be a high tide on the day we visit so we may not be able to walk all around the outside.

Exploring the Magazine Brow. In 1751 a piece of land was purchased in New Brighton to build a store for gunpowder. The area was described as a rocky, sandy, barren waste which was ideal for storing gunpowder. The compound was surrounded by thick walls to minimise any impact of an explosion. We will look at the remains of the battery walls and entrance plus The Magazines village which dates back to Jacobean times at its core.

**HAZARDS:** Please wear sensible footwear for walking on sand and wet pavements. There are some hills as we walk up the roads to Magazine Brow.



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Pimbo: post-medieval mining and farming landscape**



**Preliminary further information** (registered participants will receive further details)

**LOCATION:** Pimbo is south of Skelmersdale on the Merseyside/Lancashire/Greater Manchester border (where South-West Lancashire, St Helens and Wigan boundaries meet).

**Maps:** An A4 map of the walk will be provided to participants, but if you are curious: the area is covered by OS Landranger sheet 108: Liverpool, Southport & Wigan (at 1:50,000) and by OS Explorer sheet 285: Southport & Chorley (at 1:25,000).

**TIME & VENUE:** The walk starts promptly at 10.30am. Please allow yourself plenty of time to find somewhere to park if you are arriving by car (see below), and/or to visit the café at the Pimbo Garden Centre <https://pimbogardencentre.co.uk/>

**We recommend aiming for 10.00am.**

We will meet and set off at 10.30am prompt from the small layby on Pimbo Lane that is on the south-east side of the railway bridge at NGR SD 51000375 (almost opposite Pimbo Garden Centre).

The small car park is suitable for approximately 5 cars subject to rail users' demand. If the small car park is full then try street parking on Pimbo Lane by a row of cottages. Please do not use the nearby Pimbo Garden Centre for parking, although you may find their postcode useful for Sat Nav purposes: WN8 9QQ. May is a busy time for them and they do not have spare capacity for people who are not present at the centre.

**TRANSPORT:** car or public transport. Public transport is slow and infrequent but feasible:

**Bus:** The 312 bus serves Up Holland Station bus stop.

This is an hourly service from Rainford to Ormskirk

<https://merseytravel.adidocdn.dev/timetables/Bus/312-27Nov23.pdf>



## MAS March 2024 Forthcoming Programme & Online Resources

**Rail:** There is an hourly service leaving Headbolt Lane Station on the Kirby line 46 mins past the hour arriving at Upholland Station at 57 mins past the hour. The return journey is 25 mins past the hour to Headbolt Lane. Trains are also available from Orrell (where they can connect with buses from St Helens)

**Car:** parking is very limited in Pimbo (which is a one-street village) so please consider car sharing. If you can offer a lift to others, then please indicate this when you book a place on the walk: pick-ups from local train stations could be very helpful eg Rainford Junction, St Helens, or Gathurst & Appley Bridge (on the Southport/Parbold/Wigan line)

**ORGANISER:** The visit will be led by Roy Forshaw and Sue Stallibrass

**BOOKING: to register your interest and book places,** please email Roy Forshaw at [roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) by 27<sup>th</sup> April, if possible, to receive further details. The party is to be restricted to 15. After this date if there are any spaces unallocated we will be making places available for Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society.

**TIMINGS:** the visit will take about 4.5 hours. We can buy refreshments at Pimbo Garden Centre café and use their facilities before leaving. Please note that there will be no facilities available enroute. We will leave the meeting point in Pimbo at 10.30 a.m. prompt and hope to return by 3.00 p.m. We will be walking at a steady pace and stopping to look at sites of interest.

**FACILITIES:** Pimbo Garden Centre which is open from 10.00 – 4.30. There will be no facilities enroute. Please bring lunch and drink sufficient for the day. We will picnic in a treelined depression where we can ponder as to its use.

**THE VISIT will include:**

This will be a circular walk starting from Pimbo village looking at the various historic buildings and industrial remains including sites of collieries and their supporting transport networks (a mix of tramways and railways). We will also look at the earthworks from a large brick and tile works and its railway connections.

There are plenty of farm buildings plus depressions from various mineral extractions.

**HAZARDS:** Please wear sensible footwear such as walking boots as the paths through the fields can be muddy and slippery, particularly after wet weather. There are 5 stiles to negotiate, one set of steps into a sunken lane and one steep hill to walk up.

Please wear clothing suitable for the anticipated weather and bring sunscreen/a hat.