

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

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

Winter evening talks 2022-2023

DATE	venue	Speaker	Topic
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! Please contact Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk if you would like to present a short talk

16th March: Dave Roberts has led a long-term MAS project with dedicated members to record the 2000+ 17th century and later monuments in the churchyard at All Saints Church, Childwall, Liverpool. The original survey has expanded to include burial records and other archive material. The project won an award in the 2020 Festival of Archaeology organized by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) and the first swathe of data has been digitised for archiving on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) [Churchyard Survey Data from All Saints Church, Childwall, Liverpool 2009 - 2021: Introduction \(archaeologydataservice.ac.uk\)](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk) Dave will bring us up to speed with the project's achievements and describe how information currently being gathered from neighbouring churches and churchyards in South

April 20th AGM & Members evening

The **AGM** should only take about 20-30 minutes, which leaves an hour for short contributions from members.

Short talks by members: Volunteers welcome! Would you like to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for any places, finds or new work etc? Are you involved in a project that other members might be interested in joining?

If you have something that you would like to share with other members, please contact Roy Forshaw Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk or Sue Stallibrass Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk either in person at our February or March meetings, or by email so that we can work out a programme. Looking forward to sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge!

Provisional summer outings calendar (some dates to be confirmed (tbc))

WHEN	WHERE	MORE INFO	ORGANISER
Sat 1st April *DATE may need to be changed if train strike goes ahead	INFORMAL VISIT to Bolton Museum to view Egyptian displays mentioned by curator Ian Trumble in his MAS talk on Zoom November 2022 The museum and aquarium are fully open. In Feb, the art gallery is undergoing maintenance and doesn't yet have a definite re-opening date but: on 25 th March a new exhibition concerning the artist Lowry and his connections to Bolton and the football team Bolton Wanderers opens to the public. It includes the Lowry painting 'Going to the Match'. https://www.bolton.gov.uk/news/article/1500/going-to-the-match-iconic-football-painting-is-heading-for-bolton	This will not involve any guided tours or talks, but if you would like to (a) visit the museum & (b) do so in company with like-minded people (or have company travelling or go for coffee/lunch afterwards) then come along https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/bolton-museum	Organiser Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk TRANSPORT: train or car 11.00 am : Meet at the Bolton Museum entrance

*PLEASE CONTACT SUE IN ADVANCE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO BOLTON so that we can keep in touch if there are any travel problems. Sue will be travelling by train. If people would like to rendezvous at Liverpool Lime Street there is a Northern stopping train to Manchester at 09.00, change at Deansgate, arrives Bolton 10.21am.

May prob. Sat 13th but tbc	Childwall All Saints Church cemetery to hear about the long-term recording and archive project led by Dave Roberts (see MAS evening talk 16th March!)	https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/childwall-graves	Childwall leader Dave Roberts TRANSPORT: car or public transport
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Sat 3rd June	Visit to Ness Gardens to see the various reconstructed or re-located monuments and to receive a talk/demonstration by Peter Hommel about EARTH (Experimental Archaeology Research & Teaching Hub)	https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/science,,research/experimentalarchaeologyresearchandteachinghub/	Organiser Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk TRANSPORT: car or public transport: the 487 bus runs every 30 mins from central Liverpool and stops right outside the entrance. The hourly 22 bus from Chester stops about a mile away https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/visit,us/getting-here/
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MAS March 2023 Forthcoming Programme & Online Resources

July date TBC	Loggerheads Country Park An industrial landscape (lead mining and water power) in a beautiful limestone valley. Easy walking access to visitor centre, picnic area & café and several industrial monuments eg a mill, leats etc.	https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevall.org.uk/projects/loggerheads-country-park/	Organiser: Roy Forshaw TRANSPORT: car share will be essential We hope to make this a joint visit with Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society (MIHS)
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AUGUST NO FIELD TRIP (height of summer holiday season))

Sat 2nd or Sun 3rd Sept	Birkenhead Park (in morning) & (provisionally) the U-Boat experience and/or the Giant Grasshopper in the afternoon. BigHeritage have taken on the U-Boat & Dean Paton gave a talk to MAS in October about the regeneration of heritage venues in Birkenhead	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. 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/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shore_Road_Pumping_Station	Leaders : Ann Gemmell (am) & Roy Forshaw (pm) TRANSPORT: plenty of public transport links to Birkenhead, but carshare might be helpful moving between venues.
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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/>

Fri 8th – Sun 17th Sept Exact date tbc	INFORMAL VISIT: St Helens church, Sefton https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-helen-sefton 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.	Organiser: Sue Stallibrass TRANSPORT: car (public transport extremely difficult) 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).
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Forthcoming online talks

The **Baron Thyssen Centre for the Study of Ancient Material Religion** hosts a series of monthly online talks. These have two presenters each, with a lot of time for discussion after their talks of ~ 20 minutes each. FREE but register to book a place.

Monday 6th March 5.00 – 6.30 A seminar and discussion about **Material religion and hair**. This online event will include talks by **Professor Mary Harlow** and **Dr Valerie Hope**

<https://www.openmaterialreligion.org/events-1/2022/11/29/hair>

and a heads-up about their April talk:

Monday 24th April 5.00 – 6.30 which has our own **Gina Muskett** (with **Adam DiBattista**) speaking on **Material Religion and Ivory**. Gina's talk will include discussion of items in the collections of the **National Museums Liverpool** and the **University of Liverpool**

You can book a place now!

<https://www.openmaterialreligion.org/events-1/2022/12/7/ivory-online-monday-24th-april-5pm-630pm-uk-time>

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 3rd April 19.00 (&.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>

Past online talks

Thornton-le-Street in North Yorkshire has had a three-year Lottery-funded **Roads to the Past** project investigating the archaeology and history of their village community and several resources are available online including a video of a historic landscape tour led by Al Oswald, videos of test pitting, volunteer experiences and finds, plus a blog about how to interpret tithe maps. See:

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

I can only find a youtube link to one webinar (the last in their series):

Prof Richard Hingley **The Roman conquest of central Britain and the nature of the main roads**. Lecture given to the Thornton-le-Street history group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucJS4nCGCQk>

Society of Antiquaries talk by Andy Fitzpatrick & Toby Driver **Castell Nadolig & the Penryn spoons** (a Welsh Iron Age hillfort associated with some rare Bronze Age metal artefacts)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVr9Df-cHlc>

The **Baron Thyssen Centre for the Study of Ancient Material Religion** hosts a range of publicly available resources as part of the Open University.

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

The 'Resources' tab includes links to several recordings including some (but not all) of their **webinars or discussions following webinars** (sometimes the webinars themselves cannot be uploaded to a public-access website as they include copyright images or pre-publication information)

Other online resources

The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) is a major national archive and repository for archaeological reports, many of which are not published with ISBN numbers etc (including many of the 'grey literature' reports from commercial developments). It is particularly important because it provides stable urls (Universal Resource Locators) so that documents remain accessible through an unchanged 'address' despite changes or updates in electronic storage technology or changes (or demises) of host websites.

The ADS website was relaunched on 6th February after an extended period of development that was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) research infrastructure programme.

To find out more about the website and what it has to offer (which is lots! Well worth checking out!), as well as a series of FAQs, please see this [post](#) on their blog.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the ADS help desk

help@archaeologydataservice.ac.uk).

Two of the three Neolithic **Thornborough Henges, North Yorkshire** (which were on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register) and their immediate surroundings have been gifted to the nation by the landowners. They can now be visited (and they are big!) The third henge is not at risk and remains on private land. The henges are in a line that kinks slightly in the middle. News reports justifiably claim that they are a major monument and deserve to be better known. See, for instance:

https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2023/feb/03/thornborough-henges-north-yorkshire-gifted-england-heritage?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about-us/search-news/thornborough-henges/>

The **Baron Thyssen Centre for the Study of Ancient Material Religion** hosts a range of publicly available resources as part of the Open University.

Check out their home website for links to publications, resources, events etc:

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

Caithness Broch Project (brochs are a very distinctive and defensive type of stone-built structure found in Scotland)

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

As I don't use social media (and there is far too much to monitor!) I don't normally mention anything other than websites but people may be interested in Lancaster City Museums' series of podcasts in celebration of their centenary:

100 Years 100 Objects: Stories from the collections of Lancaster City Museums

"Join us twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for stories from the collections of Lancaster City Museums". I assume at two per week, this will last for 50 weeks of 2023 so keep checking to see what's new!

"Members of our museum team, academics, and members of community groups have selected their 100 favourite objects from our collection of over 60,000".

A fun & eclectic mix, each podcast focuses on an item eg an artefact, archive document, map, artwork etc

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

TV series to watch on catch-up or online

Digging for Britain BBC 2 Series 10. Six programmes, based roughly on geographical regions. Episode 6 (catchily titled 'Ice Age camp and a saint with syphilis') includes a short article about Liverpool docks and the Museum of Liverpool's Piermaster's dig. This features interviews with Vanessa Oakden and Jeff Speakman of Liverpool Museums and see if you can spot soundbites from other familiar faces! The Liverpool article is from 31-40 minutes in the recording.

Cath up on BBC i-player or online:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0dlywnb/episodes/player>

Bettany Hughes' Treasures of the World Channel 4 Series 2. Each programme focuses on a country or region eg Jordan, Cyprus, Oman, Albania. Ongoing series of eight one-hour programmes. Broadcasts started on Saturday 11th Feb 7-8 pm.

Watch live every Saturday on Channel 4 or catch up on All 4.

Or you can watch all eight episodes now on:

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

In-person events taking place locally/regionally/nationally:

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

Saturday 25th March 10.00 am – 4.00 pm the **Wirral History Fair** will take place in Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight. This annual event is organised by the Wirral History & Heritage Association and is a busy occasion with lots of local societies hosting stalls and displays. FREE entry & parking. Books, memorabilia, family history, local history, archaeology... The website lists the exhibiting societies **Merseyside Archaeology Society will be there**, advertising the society and its resources and activities. If you can volunteer to help staff the society's table at some time during the day, or help with transporting publications or equipment, please contact Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums

The Viking Society for Northern Research holds meetings and creates publications and other resources see their website: <https://vsnr.org/about/>

Saturday 15th April 10.30/11.00 (registration) – **5.30pm** in-person **annual Viking Society Student Conference**.

Conference fee of £10 (cash on the door) includes lunch, teas & bookstall.

Venue: GFlex- Central Teaching Hub, University of Liverpool

Talks: Viking activity in late Medieval Breda (Brabant, Netherlands); The diverse roles of women in Viking encampments; New interpretations of Viking Woodstown (a possible fortified longphort for ships near Waterford); Early Medieval stone sculpture in Nithsdale, Dumfriesshire; Dis/continuity of Wirral churches & parishes in the Viking period; Discovering emotions in Medieval Nordic law.

If interested, contact Clare Downham downham@liverpool.ac.uk so that numbers and dietary requirements are confirmed.

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>

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

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

Are you interested in **Church Archaeology**?

Forthcoming Archaeology conference in Liverpool:

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>

Hosted in partnership with the University of Liverpool and sponsored by the Liverpool Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (LCMRS).

Covering the north-western seaboard of England, Scotland, and Wales, this region has a long and complex history of church and ecclesiastical sites which do not always or easily mirror the changes and continuities noted in other, arguably more well-researched and well-excavated areas, of Britain and Ireland.

Reflecting centuries of cultural exchange around the Irish Sea, not least with western Ireland, the North West has its own rich heritage, combining influences from the south-west of Britain, Ireland, and Scandinavia.

However, site-specific connections beyond the region are also well-attested, such as Chester and York, Liverpool and Dublin, St Asaph cathedral and Westminster Abbey, and more broadly, Cumbria and the Isle of Man, although by no means exhaustive of regional connections within and beyond the North West.

Friday 15th September: Evening Keynote and Reception

Venue: School of the Arts Library, 19 Abercromby Square, University of Liverpool campus.

Saturday 16th September: Society for Church Archaeology Conference Papers

Venue: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Sunday 17th September: Fieldtrip to Norton Priory, Runcorn inc. museum and walled garden.

www.nortonpriory.org

Forthcoming and past talks by the Society for Church Archaeology:

The Society for Church Archaeology also hosts FREE lectures online and several recordings are available as YouTube videos.

See their Events page for forthcoming and for past talks:

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

Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk 28th Feb 2023