

**Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:**  
 The next season of evening talks will resume (in-person) on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Childwall All Saints Church &amp; cemetery, Liverpool, L16 5EY</b>	Explore the graveyard and hear about MAS's long-term recording and archive project	Dave Roberts <a href="mailto:drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk">drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk</a> by 6th May if possible
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Ness Botanic Gardens &amp; Experimental Archaeology (EARTH) Neston Rd, Ness CH64 4AY</b>	Discuss the reconstructed henge and watch/take part in an experimental copper smelt	Sue Stallibrass <a href="mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk">Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk</a> by 29 <sup>th</sup> May if possible
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July PLEASE NOTE DATE</b>	<b>Loggerheads Country Park,  Ruthin Rd, Mold CH7 5LH</b>	Explore a landscape altered by lead mining, limestone quarrying & associated water management features	Roy Forshaw <a href="mailto:Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk">Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk</a>  By 24 <sup>th</sup> June if possible
<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>Birkenhead Park (am) tbc the Birkenhead Grasshopper pumping engine (pm)</b>	Guided tour of the first public park in morning TBC visit the Grasshopper Pumping engine at Shore Road	Ann Gemmel <a href="mailto:ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com">ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com</a>  date to register tbc
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept:</b>	<b>Heritage Open Days  The listings will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	You can sign up to receive their newsletter: <a href="https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting">https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting</a>	IF St Helen's Church, Sefton is open, Sue Stallibrass will provide some car travel from the nearest train station
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool</b>	<b>MAS indoor evening lectures resume</b>	

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May Childwall All Saints Church and cemetery, Liverpool, L16 5EY**



Photo: <http://www.childwall.info/GRAVEYARD> accessed 2nd May 2023

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

**LOCATION:** We meet at 11.30 at the Church which is at the junction of Childwall Abbey Road and Score Lane opposite the Childwall Abbey Pub. The postcode is L16 5EY.

**TRANSPORT:** car or public transport. NB Merseyrail will not be affected by the train strikes.

**ORGANISER:** The visit will be led by Dave Roberts, MAS Treasurer and Childwall project lead

**BOOKING:** to register your interest and book places, please email Dave Roberts at [drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk) by 6<sup>th</sup> May if possible, to receive further details

**TIMINGS:** the visit will take about 4 to 5 hours and lunches could be bring your own or obtained in the pub opposite.

**FACILITIES:** the pub opposite (The Childwall Abbey pub) has toilets

**THE VISIT will include:**

A history of the Church and Churchyard and a summary of the MAS churchyard survey with demonstration of techniques used.

A tour of the older part of the churchyard to include main monument types. A look at the graveyard extension and vaults.

**HAZARDS:** Please wear sensible footwear. There are some trip hazards within the graveyard and some of the smooth ledger stones can be slippery when wet.

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

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

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> June Ness Botanic gardens and EARTH (Experimental Archaeology)  
With optional start to the morning exploring Burton rural village and well**



One of the kilns/furnaces at EARTH

Photo: Roy Forshaw 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

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

**LOCATION:** Meet at 11.30am inside the entrance building to Ness Botanic Gardens, Neston Rd, Little Neston, Ness CH64 4AY.

**COSTS:** Ness Gardens is owned by the University of Liverpool. Students (I think of any college/university), and the university's staff pay £1 entrance fee (remember to bring your student/staff card). Concessions (over 60 years old or disabled) £6.50 Adults £7.50 Carers (accompanying a disabled person) Free.

**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/>

**ORGANISER:** The visit will be led by Sue Stallibrass, MAS Events Secretary and Dr Peter Hommel of the University of Liverpool, who runs the EARTH project- Experimental Archaeology Research and Teaching Hub <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/science,,,research/experimentalarchaeologyresearchandteachinghub/>

**THE VISIT will include:** an exploration of the reconstructed 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.

**OPTIONAL extra (independent) visits: Ness Botanic Gardens:** before and after the MAS-led part of the visit, you can explore the extensive and varied Ness gardens.

**OPTIONAL EXTRA MAS visit: Burton village:** For those who are interested, we shall meet at Burton village at 10.00am to explore the traditional architecture of the village, calling in at Hampston's Well and passing by the location of St Andrew's Hospital in Denhall.

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

[Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) by 29<sup>th</sup> 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)

**TIMINGS:** the MAS visit to Ness Gardens will take about 4 to 5 hours and lunches could be bring your own or obtained in the café.

**FACILITIES:** Ness Gardens has free parking, a café and toilets. (and a shop and plant sales...)

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/visit,us/cafe/>

**HAZARDS:** Please wear sensible footwear. There are some gentle slopes in the gardens.

When attending the experimental archaeology demonstration, you may wish to bring a lightweight folding chair if you don't wish to stand or sit on the grass.

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

**FURTHER INFORMATION** will be provided to participants who register their interest in advance.

- There is a possibility of obtaining a group booking discount but this depends on numbers and whether or not individual discounts preclude any advantage.
- Registering in advance also means that car shares or lifts can be arranged for travel to Ness and/or to Burton (which is about 1.3 miles due south of Ness Gardens, about a 25 minute walk away) Burton, Neston CH64 5SF



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

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE IS NOW **SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:Roy.Forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) by 30<sup>th</sup> 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 FIELD TRIP (height of summer holiday season) tbc

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com) to express interest, to help her book the guided talk in Birkenhead Park

<p><b>SUN 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b></p>	<p><b>Birkenhead Park</b> (in morning) &amp; (provisionally) the <b>U-Boat experience</b> and/or the <b>Giant Grasshopper</b> in the afternoon.</p> <p>BigHeritage have taken on the U-Boat &amp; 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.  <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birkenhead_Park#:~:text=Birkenhead%20Park%20is%20a%20major,civic%20park%20in%20the%20world">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birkenhead_Park#:~:text=Birkenhead%20Park%20is%20a%20major,civic%20park%20in%20the%20world</a>.</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)  <a href="https://bigheritage.co.uk/the-u-boat-story/">https://bigheritage.co.uk/the-u-boat-story/</a></p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shore_Road_Pumping_Station">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shore_Road_Pumping_Station</a></p>	<p>Leaders : Ann Gemmel (am) &amp; 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 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup> – Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	INFORMAL VISIT:  <b>St Helens church, Sefton</b> <a href="https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-helen-sefton">https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-helen-sefton</a>	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).
<b>Exact date tbc</b>	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.	

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](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) know!

**Forthcoming online talks**

Don't forget that Lancaster's City Museum has launched a **free** podcast series to celebrate their centenary. "[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. As I write, the most recent two discuss:  
-a Roman inscription from Lancaster (interesting for what it doesn't mention) &  
-an 1834 invoice for the costs of an execution at Lancaster castle.

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

Durham University is holding a lecture series as part of their **Belief in the North East** project FREE but register in advance with Eventbrite:

**Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30- 9.00pm Martin Roberts **Landscapes Of Supply: The Granges Of Durham Cathedral Priory****

The history of Durham Cathedral is well-documented, its architectural history equally well known and invariably described in popular literature as series of intermittent *capital* building projects. But the day-to-day sustainability of the medieval cathedral, run by its Benedictine Priory, is less understood. That history, essentially a *revenue* history, is one that requires a regular income flow coming from its urban and rural estates. This talk will examine the architectural legacy that survives from those rural estates – its monastic granges spread throughout County Durham.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/landscapes-of-supply-the-granges-of-durham-cathedral-priory-tickets-603831274597>

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 12.00 – 13.00** The next international talk in the Prehistoric Society's series about Global Pasts, presented by experts from each continent will be by Prof Rebecca Ackermann and Dr Robyn Pickering

**Human evolution research in South Africa: the role of HERI in shaking up our family tree.**

(HERI = Human Evolution Research Institute of the University of Capetown)

As usual- FREE but register online to obtain link

<https://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events/2023-05-15>

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 – 8.30 pm** Jim Leary: **Footmarks: A journey into our restless past**

**ONLINE - Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7pm**

Can we ever know what it was like to move in the past; to understand its meanings and complexities? Unlike many other disciplines; ones that can observe and interview the moving subject, archaeology has only the silent witness. This silence, though, is not to be misconstrued with stillness, and the evidence for past mobilities surrounds us. Focusing on mobility provides a dynamic approach to archaeology, and in this presentation, I will discuss some of the evidence for mobility within the archaeological record and explore ways in which archaeology can engage better with it. I will address what mobility can contribute to the understanding and interpretation of past landscapes and move away from archaeology's traditional focus upon place and location

FREE for CBA members, £5 for non-members. Register to gain a place:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/get-involved/events-and-activities/event-calendar/this-is-archaeology-footmarks-a-journey-into-our-restless-past.html>

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

**[Finding Britain's Lost Gods \(History of Religion\)](#)**

Heads up for June: The last talk in Gresham College's series by Professor Ronald Hutton is on:

**6pm, Weds 7 June 2023**, [How Pagan Was Medieval Britain](#)

FREE but register to receive link

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



### Past online talks

**Lancaster University's public lectures** are sometimes recorded and made available online on their YouTube channel. You can sign up to their Events newsletter. Talks can cover any subject area.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/events/public-lectures/>

Amongst the recordings available are a talk on 10/12/2018 by Forensics specialist Professor Dame Sue Black **Forensic Anthropology in the real world**

Recently, Dan Snow gave a talk in March 2023 called **History in a digital world** in which he explored some of the strengths and weaknesses of making history accessible online, along with the opportunities and dangers of this revolution in broadcasting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5D-qz6M1v8>

Following Al Oswald's popular webinar on Roman Malton what happened next - watch at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY4deaqxpBgkt54p9GmNLzA>

### Other online resources

Historic England has produced new Guidance on **Curating the Palaeolithic** (January 2023) which includes several case studies of important sites in England. The pdf is 4 MB and is available at

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/curating-the-palaeolithic/>

An international team led by archaeologists at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) has discovered the **earliest Mesolithic human remains in northern Britain**. The human remains from at least eight individuals and a periwinkle shell bead were buried in Heaning Wood Bone Cave in Cumbria. Radiocarbon dating has shown that there were three phases of deposition during the Early Mesolithic around 11,000 years ago, Early Neolithic around 5500 years ago and Early Bronze Age around 4000 years ago.

The original press release is available from:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/news/early-remains-in-north-britain>

More information is available from:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-64400523>

<https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-02-15/remains-of-oldest-northerner-found-by-archaeologists-in-cave>

There is a new film about the **Roman period Antonine Wall in Scotland**. This was a short-lived (c 20 years) northern extension to the part of Britain that was under direct Roman military and administrative control in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD/CE (Anno Domini in Christian calendar, Common Era for non-religious based calendars which are becoming the norm for archaeological dating). The boundary (between the northern limit of the Roman Empire and 'barbaricum' beyond) ran for 37 miles from the Firth of Clyde to the Firth of Forth (sort of Glasgow to Edinburgh...) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SHxjq-ZjcQ>

**Historic England Research Reports** can be searched on a map at <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/?searchType=research+report>

My recent browsing has discovered various reports relevant to Merseyside.

If you hover your pointer over a dot on the map, it will pop-up a small window telling you what the report is, with a link directly to it.

Some reports are extremely large (lots of images):

**Post-resettlement Anglo-Jewish burial grounds**, 258-2020, 90MB

**The manufactured gas industry**, 182-2020. Five volumes

Vol 1 (26MB) overview and history of the industry

Vol 2 (80MB) Gasworks

Vol 3 (4MB) Gazetteer

Vol 4 (11MB) List of manufacturers of gas plant

Vol 5 (4MB) Bibliography

**Police stations of England 1850-1995**, 128-2015, 4MB

**Farmstead and landscape Statements** (various) eg Merseyside conurbation 62-2020, 556MB; Wirral 63-2020, 7MB; Sefton Coast 61-2020, 157MB

A new and ongoing project to make **pre-1900 watercolours publicly available online** can be searched by location using a map (there are lots in and around Merseyside) or by subject. You may be lucky and find a depiction of a favourite location or building (or type of building). The project can scan watercolours in private or public ownership if you would like to submit any to help build up the collection (they hope to reach 200,000 by December)

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

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

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 for 10.30 until 4.00pm Council for British Archaeology North-West CBA NW) Spring Conference Theme: Archaeology and water**

Venue: National Waterways Museum, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 4FW  
[National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port](#)

Tickets are £12 for CBA NW members, £15 for non-members.

Book through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cba-nw-spring-conference-2023-tickets-620702005407>

The conference talks include:

- The excavation of three scuttled mid-19<sup>th</sup> century barges on the Rochdale Canal
- Medieval landing places and routeways across Galloway in south west Scotland
- A peat bog, in NE Staffordshire, which has produced a rich data-set of pollen and radiocarbon dates
- The excavation of an area of the Bridgewater Canal, which runs from Manchester to Runcorn

The print version of the new **Research Framework for the Historic Environment of North West England** will be available for collection (free to CBA NW members) or purchase (£10 to non-members)

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> June (tbc) all day Chester Archaeology Society**

A one-day conference, planned for 24 June to coincide with the Chester Heritage Festival.

**15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 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:

**Bank Holiday Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May Ashton Park Fair**- featuring the WSF Viking village and warriors

Venue: Ashton Park, Westbourne Rd, West Kirby, CH48 4DQ

Come and see the harsh realities of life for the Vikings and Saxons. The Viking village (Wic) is a tented encampment where the viking warriors prepare for battle whilst the camp followers and local craftsmen and women show the skills they used to survive everyday life on Hiberno-Norse Wirral.

FREE ENTRY

**Saturday & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June** **Heskin Hall Viking Festival**

Venue: Wood Lane, Chorley, PR7 5PA

**Saturday & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

[Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk) 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023