

## Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

Our winter evening talks take place on the third Thursday of each month  
**OUR WINTER TALKS RESUME ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

### MAS summer fieldtrip programme (as at 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

	WHERE	MORE INFO	ORGANISER
<b>May</b> <b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pimbo &amp; Upholland</b>  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	<b>Post-medieval mining &amp; farming landscape</b>  <b>MEET:</b> in the small layby close to Upholland train station at NGR SD 51000375  There are no facilities during the walk, which will take about 4.5 hours. We aim to be back in Pimbo about 3.0pm	<b>Roy Forshaw &amp; Sue Stallibrass</b>  <b>TO BOOK:</b> please contact Roy at <a href="mailto:roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk">roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk</a>  <b>Deadline for booking: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>TRANSPORT:</b> public transport is slow but feasible (see details below) <b>Car:</b> Please consider car sharing to minimise parking issues  <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  <b>FURTHER DETAILS AT END OF THIS BULLETIN</b>
<b>June</b> <b>Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; Sun 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<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@liverpool.ac.uk">Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk</a>  Further details to follow later. These are two full days out and can be combined or undertaken individually  <b>TRANSPORT:</b> Car sharing highly recommended
<b>Sat July 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Eastham Country Park &amp; Eastham Village, Wirral</b>	<b>Victorian Pleasure Park, historic village</b>	<b>Ann Gemmell</b> <a href="mailto:ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com">ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com</a>  <b>TRANSPORT:</b> public transport or car
<b>Sept</b>	<b>7/ 8</b>	<b>Heritage Open Days</b>	<b>National Heritage Open Days (DIY)</b>
	<b>14/15</b>	<b>Heritage Open Days</b>	<b>National Heritage Open Days (DIY)</b>

<b>Sept</b>	<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> MAS evening talk (in person)</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>SAT 5<sup>th</sup> OCT</b>	<b>MAS CONFERENCE</b>	<b>AIM 2024 ARCHAEOLOGY IN MERSEYSIDE 2024</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Thurs 17<sup>th</sup></b>		<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 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.

**SEE DETAILS AT END OF BULLETIN FOR THIS WALK**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Wroxeter Roman city and museum and Old Oswestry prehistoric 'Hillfort'**

**+ Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Ironbridge Gorge Museums**

- 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 Local Activities, Public lectures & temporary Exhibitions

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 5.00 – 6.30 pm**

**Public lecture:**

Robert A Foley & Marta Mirazón Lahr

**Ghostly lineages and sparse fossils: tackling the problem of hominid diversity in deep time**

The Merseyside Evolutionary Network Distinguished Lecture Series (MENDLS), a new collaboration between the Human Origins Group at the University of Liverpool and RCEAP at Liverpool John Moores University, are pleased to announce their launch event: "Ghostly lineages and sparse fossils: tackling the problem of hominid diversity in deep time", the inaugural lecture by Profs Robert A Foley and Marta Mirazón Lahr (University of Cambridge).

**Venue:** the Central Teaching Hub Lecture Theatre 1 (**University of Liverpool**), followed by a wine reception.

FREE but book a ticket: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/university-of-liverpool/lecture-theatre-c/mendls-inaugural-lecture-robert-foley-and-marta-mirazon-lahr/e-gbzqdm>

Over half a century, gene-based approaches to human evolution have had a major effect on both how we investigate our evolution, and what is now known. Spurred first by developments in sequencing, and then by advances in the retrieval of DNA from fossils and sediments, genomics is now one of the main driving forces in the evolutionary and historical human sciences. However, when put into the context of the whole course of hominin evolution during the last seven million years, the impact has been patchy. Most work has focused on the last few hundred thousand years, and predominantly in Eurasia. This is unfortunate, as this period is the tip of the palaeontological iceberg, and Africa rather than Eurasia is the centre of key evolutionary events. Recently ghost lineages – lineages

inferred to have existed in the past but for which there is no fossil evidence – have begun to change this situation. While the fossil record for the period from one million years ago remains sparse, integrating these with the insights from ape and hominin genomics allows us to explore the nature of hominin diversity in the period that gives rise to the evolution of modern humans, and the evolutionary processes involved.

**Until 17<sup>th</sup> May:**                                 **Excavations in Chester's Grosvenor Park**  
by the **University of Chester and Cheshire Museums**

Visitors are welcome to view the excavation, Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm, when students will be pleased to answer questions about their work and discoveries.

One of this year's aims is to find out more about a late medieval or 16<sup>th</sup> Century building and how it relates to a medieval building found to the north several years ago and Sir Hugh Cholmondeley's house. The Saxon ditch should run across this area, and it might be possible to find its outline. The team is also hoping to find more evidence of the Civil War and its impact on the area. Or something totally unexpected may be waiting to be discovered.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news/the-grosvenor-park-dig-is-back>

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1.30 – 4.30pm**                         **Chester excavations Open day**  
A free to visit open afternoon at the Grosvenor Park dig; no booking is necessary.

**Until 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** The excavations have inspired more collaborative work between West Cheshire Museums and the archaeology team at the University. Students have worked with museum staff to create exhibitions that include finds from the Park; the current exhibition '**Royal Rumble**' exhibition at the Grosvenor Museum focuses on **Chester in the English Civil War**.

Further information can be found at:

<https://events.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/event/chester-in-the-english-civil-war/>

**Saturday 4 May – Saturday 5 October 2024** **Victoria Gallery & Museum (VGM)**  
at the University of Liverpool

The tall red brick building with decorative tower on the corner of Brownlow Hill & Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool L69 3DR

**Creatures of the Nile FREE exhibition** explores the fascinating position animals held in ancient Egyptian and Sudanese society and culture, featuring over 250 objects, many of which have never been on public display. Highlights include one of the earliest known depictions of a domesticated dog, a sheet from the 3,500-year-old Book of the Dead and a bronze statue which entombed a mummified cat. Exhibited objects come from the collections of the Garstang Museum, with additional artefacts on loan from National Museums Liverpool and Manchester Museum.

NB museum & gallery closed on Sundays and Mondays

<https://vgm.liverpool.ac.uk/news/articles/from-photos-to-pharaohs-gallery-announces-programme>

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 10.00am – 3.00pm St Helens Heritage Festival**

at St Helens Town Hall

<https://www.sthelensheritagehub.org.uk/pages/st-helens-heritage-festival>

Following the success of their first festival in 2023, held to celebrate their status as Merseyside Borough of Culture, St Helens will be holding a 2024 festival, and **Merseyside Archaeology Society** will again be advertising and recruiting for the Society.

To visit: no need to book- just turn up:

Venue: Town Hall, Victoria Square, Saint Helens WA10 1HP

Info about town hall: <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/4000/St-Helens-Town-Hall>

**Volunteer helpers needed!**

At **St Helens Heritage Festival** we will be selling our books and journals, talk to members of the public about MAS and archaeology in Merseyside and hopefully grow our membership. We don't need 'experts' just friendly faces who enjoy archaeology to help on the stall with a member of council. You will also have a chance to enjoy the other stalls and activities taking place.

If you are free to help support us please get in touch with our chair Ann at [ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com) or 07760309926

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May Wirral Viking Festival at Leasowe Castle Hotel  
Leasowe Rd, Wirral CH46 3RF <https://www.thewirralvikingfestival.co.uk/>**

The Wirral Viking Festival uses a combination of re-enactments, immersive story telling & educational talks, to tell the story of the Wirral Vikings who settled here in 902AD, and offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the Ancient Norse myths and legends told throughout the Ancient Norse world.

They work closely with local museums, historians, ecologists and archaeologists to provide educational & historical talks, lectures & demonstrations.

Interactive activities include: live battle re-enactments, immersive theatre, live music, themed craft, activity & food stalls,

The reenactors are Regia Anglorum <https://regia.org/>

and you can book for the Festival at:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thewirralvikingfestival/952464>

**25<sup>th</sup> May - 2nd June 2024      Auxilia 2024**

More re-enactors, this time in North Wales: the crowd funded gradual recreation of a Roman auxiliary fort at **Park in the Past**, Fagl Lane, Hope, LL12 9HB

People who use social media may be able to find out more than I can access:

[https://www.facebook.com/parkinthevast/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/parkinthevast/?locale=en_GB)

<https://parkinthevast.org.uk/visitor-information/>

## Forthcoming online talks

### **BeFrail webinar series      NEW SERIES!**

These FREE webinars introduce human frailty linked with pandemics/epidemics and war in the human past via archaeological contextualisation.

You can see the line-up and book each talk at their Eventbrite booking page:  
*NB please note that day of week and time of day vary for this series!*

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/befrail-webinars-tickets-856980129637?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/befrail-webinars-tickets-856980129637?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete&keep_tld=1)

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 15.00 (ie 3pm) Dr Sandra Assis- 'Bones and diseases: contributions and challenges of paleohistopathology for the study of past human conditions.'

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 16.00 (ie 4pm) Dr Nicholas Márquez-Grant - 'Taphonomy: What happens to the body after death?'

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 16.00 (ie 4pm) Prof Amanda Wissler - 'Socio-demographic causes of frailty in the 1918 flu pandemic.'

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 12.00 noon Dr Eline Schotsmans - 'The use of lime as a disinfectant during epidemics.'

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 15.00 (ie 3pm)** Prof Alexandra Esteves - '**Diseases and epidemic outbreaks in Portugal in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.**'

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 18.00 (ie 6pm)** Prof Sharon DeWitte - '**Stress, sex, and death: health and survival in the context of medieval famine and plague.**'

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 15.00 (ie 3pm)** Dr Olalla López-Costas - '**Food on the move: bioarchaeology of diet and mobility.**'

**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

### **Society of Antiquaries of London:**

**Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm** Professor David Mattingly  
**Talking to the Ancestors: Iron Age Painted Tombs of the Wadi Draa, Morocco**  
A joint event with the Hellenic Society and the Roman Society

The Iron Age peoples of the Sahara remain poorly studied archaeologically, so we have little to counteract the dismissive views of desert communities found in the ancient sources, where they tend to be characterized as barbarians and nomads.

The Oasis Civilisations project in southern Morocco has been investigating the Iron Age and Medieval inhabitants of an important desert valley, the Wadi Draa.

This lecture will present a stunning archaeological discovery of tombs with painted annexes, featuring both geometric designs and human figures. These pictures open a fresh window on the late Iron Age population and their relationship with the Roman empire to their north.

They allow us to compare and qualify the accounts of Greco-Roman writers so as to present a more complex and richer picture of these people, their clothing, lifestyle and beliefs.

The lecture will link the new data to themes in my recent book: Africa in the Roman Empire.

FREE (or £3 optional donation) but Book in advance

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/talking-to-the-ancestors-iron-age-painted-tombs-of-the-wadi-draa-morocco/>

### **and heads up for another at the start of June:**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1.00 – 2.00pm** Prof Aidan Dodson **The Nubian Pharaohs of Egypt**

For a few decades during the 8th to 7th centuries BC, there was a remarkable reversal of the age-old imperial domination of Nubia by Egypt. In the wake of the fragmentation of the Egyptian state during the 8th century, the Kushite state that had evolved in Nubia since Egyptian withdrawal at the beginning of the 11th century expanded northwards, ultimately absorbing the south of Egypt, including Thebes itself.

Having established themselves as overlords of the various regional rulers in Egypt, the Nubian pharaohs led a national revival in Egypt, until an Assyrian onslaught drove them back into Nubia, where their composite of Egyptian and Nubian culture would survive into the 4th century AD.

FREE (or £3 optional donation) but Book in advance

[https://www.sal.org.uk/event/the-nubian-pharaohs-of-egypt/?mc\\_cid=b711be6386&mc\\_eid=1a17e2358d](https://www.sal.org.uk/event/the-nubian-pharaohs-of-egypt/?mc_cid=b711be6386&mc_eid=1a17e2358d)

### **Past Online Talks**

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Talks are sometimes only available live to CBA members, but many of these are available afterwards to everyone. Lots of other resources as well, including videos, 'digschool' workshops for young people.

Resources: <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/news-and-resources.html>

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-l8LzfoVF4>



## Other online resources

**Fellfoot Forward** is a Landscape Partnership Scheme funded (until 2024) by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by the North Pennines National Landscape team.

NB A National Landscape is an area officially designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in England and Wales. It has some planning protection but not as much as a National Park. The Fellfoot Forward project aims to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the westernmost part of the North Pennines AONB ie the eastern side of the Eden Valley south of Brampton, running up onto the Pennine watershed. This is also part of the **UNESCO designated North Pennines Geopark**, designated primarily for its mineral resources (lead, silver etc) which are intricately linked with the area's archaeology and history. <https://northpennines.org.uk/>

**Fellfoot Forward**, like all NLHF Landscape Partnerships, is focused on community engagement: We'll be working on citizen science; community archaeology; woodland creation and management; protecting grassland and meadows; restoring peat; conserving historic buildings; new and revitalised walking, cycling and riding routes; enhanced interpretation and information for the local community and visitors; opportunities for local schools and youth groups to engage with their local heritage; and a host of public events and learning.

Their website hosts a range of information about individual projects, and a video of what they have achieved so far, plus a listing of upcoming events and a 'places to visit' map:

[https://northpennines.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/fellfoot-forward/](https://northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/fellfoot-forward/)

**Village Atlases**: Part of the work undertaken by volunteers involved local history and archaeology research, to produce three '**village atlases**' of Croglin, Cumwhitton and Hayton, which will feed into the updated **Victoria County History**. These are fun to read and highly informative, and there is a very useful guide on 'how to' create one also available on the same webpage.

Do you feel inspired or daunted about doing one yourself?!

[https://northpennines.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/fellfoot-forward/uncovering-thepast/village-atlas/](https://northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/fellfoot-forward/uncovering-thepast/village-atlas/)

If you are not already familiar with the **Victoria County Histories** (often abbreviated to VCH) these are a wealth of information that has been brought together at various times that provide a very useful 'way in' to local history and archaeology. They started in 1899 [sic] as a tribute to Queen Victoria, and cover the pre-1974 English Counties.

Hosted by the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, you can see where research is currently being undertaken eg Cumbria & Yorkshire, and where research has taken place previously eg Lancashire and Cheshire. You can find what resources have been completed, and which of these eg two volumes on the city of Chester are free to access online at :

<https://www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress>

Research for **Cheshire** was undertaken after 1972, with publications in 1979-2005, but **Lancashire** was completed in eight volumes before the First World War (1906-1914) and has not been updated since (apart from 'Lancashire over the sands' which is currently being revisited as part of the work on Cumbria).

**Most of Merseyside** is covered in Volume 3:  
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol3>

with **Liverpool, Wigan and parts of what is now Greater Manchester** in Volume 4.  
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol4>

The online VCH volumes are hosted by **British History Online** which hosts a tremendous range of historical resources:  
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

The **Society of Antiquaries of London** publish a **newsletter/magazine** that you can read online. Some of the short items are about the society and its property (they own William Morris's Kelmscott Manor) but others are about new discoveries of archaeology or antiquity. Either click on the 'timeline at the base of the image or on the 'turn-over-the-page' arrow at the foot of the right-hand-side of the image.  
<https://www.sal.org.uk/2024/03/antiquary23-24/>

## TV programmes

**Bettany Hughes Treasures of the World Series 3** At least 5 one-hour programmes (not all available on i-player yet!) visiting 'off-the-beaten'-track sites in Bulgaria, Georgia, Estonia, Albania and Azerbaijan.  
Episode 5 (**Azerbaijan**) to be broadcast at **7.00pm**, Channel 4 on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May**.  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/bettany-hughes-treasures-of-the-world>

**Pompeii: The New Dig** Three one-hour BBC2 programmes following the excavation of a property in Pompeii. Broadcast during April, these are all available on i-player and the same webpage also hosts additional material from the Open University including a 'walk-through' video.  
This new dig didn't simply expose 'more of the same' but has revealed new types of information.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001yczx>

## Other Dates for your Diary in 2024

**Friday 21st – Sunday 30th 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** Council for British Archaeology (CBA) **Festival of Archaeology** Theme = **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 19<sup>th</sup> July 8.00 am – 7.00 pm** is **Ask an Archaeologist day!** On X (formerly Twitter)

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/askanarchaeologist-day--1.html>

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 7.00 – 8.30 pm** A panel discussion: **Redefining National Amenity for the 21st Century**

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of Historic Buildings & Places and the 80th anniversary of the Council for British Archaeology. To help celebrate our milestones the directors of the seven National Amenity Societies invite you to join them for a Question Time style panel session exploring our origins, roles, and the nature of 'National Amenity' in the twenty-first century.

This is your chance to ask us questions and help us shape the voice of amenity and heritage. Have you ever wondered what 'national amenity' means? Do the National Amenity Societies still have a role today - do you know what we do and how we work together? How are we addressing the key issues facing society today?

This will be an online event hosted on Zoom with a chance to submit your questions to the panel. You will be able to submit questions in advance when you register to attend. There will also be a chance to ask further questions during the evening as the discussion develops.

The Panel:

Liz Power, Director, Historic Buildings & Places

Neil Redfern, Executive Director, Council for British Archaeology

Matthew Slocombe, Director, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

FREE but book a place to receive the link:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/redefining-national-amenity-for-the-st-century.html>

**Thursday 25th July 9.00 am – 7.00 pm A Day in Archaeology**

Have you ever wondered what archaeologists really do? Do they just dig or are there other aspects to their work? A Day In Archaeology, sponsored by Prospect, showcases 'a day in the life' of archaeologists from all over the UK.

Throughout the day archaeologists, heritage professionals, students and volunteers will share blogs talking about a day in their life. You might be surprised to see just how many opportunities there are to get involved in archaeology from fieldwork to the science lab, museums to building sites, the possibilities are endless.

Our contributors will also share the paths they took to get to where they are now. Find out how their careers developed, why they chose to study archaeology or how they got involved in volunteering.

Blog posts are uploaded throughout A Day In Archaeology and stay on the Festival website site all year round to form a developing resource for anyone interested in a career in archaeology or wanting to find out more about the range of opportunities to participate.

Taking part **Anyone can take part in A Day In Archaeology whether you are a professional, volunteer, or student, have been involved in archaeology for many years, or are just embarking on your journey.**

Submitting your blog is easy via our simple form, all you need are a title, blog text, and some images.

Submissions open on Saturday 13 July 2024 and submitted blogs will go live on the Festival website on Thursday 25 July.

A link to submit your blog will be available here from Saturday 13 July.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/a-day-in-archaeology-2.html>

NB All of the A Day In Archaeology blogs from 2019- 2023 are available for you to look at: <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/a-day-in-archaeology.html>

**The Museum of Liverpool (MoL)** is running **Festival of Archaeology** events:  
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/museum-of-liverpool#section--plan-your-visit>

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 3.00 – 4.00 pm** IN PERSON talk by Dr Liz Stewart,

**BOOK Tickets £7.00**

**Beyond The Label – Digging Little Hell**

In 2019 the Museum of Liverpool archaeology team undertook the first excavation of courtyard housing in Liverpool. This type of low quality, high density-housing was home to around half of Liverpool's working class people by the mid-19th century. This dig, in an area of the city described as 'little hell' in a court case in the 1880s, revealed some surprises about the everyday lives of people in 'Court 2, Oakes Street'.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/beyond-the-label-digging-little-hell.html>

**Free hands-on sessions with finds at MoL Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July:**

Get hands on with the past as you get the chance to look at, touch and find out about real objects from the Museum of Liverpool's archaeology collection.

Session timings are 11am-12noon and 1:30pm-4pm

Please CHECK as morning sessions are one hour and afternoons are 2.5 hours!

<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 – 12.00,
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 – 4.00 pm,
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 – 12.00,
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 – 4.00 pm,
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 – 12.00,
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 – 4.00 pm,
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 – 12.00,
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 – 4.00 pm
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 – 12.00,
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 – 4.00 pm

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/up-close-with-archaeology-1.html>

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July:** 1.30 – 3.30 pm **YAC and Me!** a drop-in event:

YAC is the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA's) **Young Archaeologists' Club**

This event is hosted by the **Mersey and Dee Young Archaeologists Club**

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/yac-and-me.html>

Do you know any young people who might like a taster session in Liverpool?

See the website of the **Young Archaeologists Club** for more details about YAC:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/youth-engagement/young-archaeologists-club.html>

<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>11.00 – 12.00</b>	<b>Craft at the Museum – Castles 2024</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>1.30 – 4.00 pm</b>	<b>Craft at the Museum – Castles 2024</b>

Did you know Liverpool used to have a castle? Discover more about this long-lost building and make a castle to take home.

Drop-in Castles Craft events:

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/craft-at-the-museum-castles.html>

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 11.00 – 12.00 Craft at the Museum – Skeletons 2024**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 1.30 – 4.00 pm Craft at the Museum – Skeletons 2024**

Osteoarchaeology or Bioarchaeology is the study of human remains found on archaeological dig sites. Come and make your own skeleton complete with anatomical names for the different bones.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/craft-at-the-museum-skeletons.html>

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 11.30 am Little Diggers' Adventure 2024**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 1.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024**

Join our Archaeologists in a hunt around the Museum looking for treasures from our past in this interactive session for Archaeologists of the Future aged 3-7 years.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/little-diggers-adventure-2.html>

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 11.00 – 12.00 Craft at the Museum – Viking helmets 2024**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 1.30 – 4.00pm Craft at the Museum – Viking helmets 2024**

Get creative and make a Viking inspired helmet to take home with you as we remember some of the settlers who first visited Merseyside shores more than 1000 years ago!

Please CHECK times: morning is one hour, afternoon is 2.5 hours

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/craft-at-the-museum-viking-helmets.html>

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 11.30 am Little Diggers' Adventure 2024**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 1.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 pm Little Diggers' Adventure 2024**

Join our Archaeologists in a hunt around the Museum looking for treasures from our past in this interactive session for Archaeologists of the Future aged 3-7 years.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/little-diggers-adventure-1.html>

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 3.00 – 4.00 pm IN PERSON talk by Dr Liz Stewart,  
Beyond The Label – Secrets of the Spirals**

The Calderstones are decorated with a range of symbols which date from the Neolithic to the Victorian periods. This talk with Dr. Liz Stewart will explore the history of the Calderstones, these symbols and their possible meanings.

Our museums and galleries are a treasure trove of fascinating stories and world class collections. In this exciting series of Beyond the Label talks you will get the opportunity to meet the experts who care for our collections, find out never-before-told, behind the scenes stories of our most beloved objects, and get the opportunity to pick the brains of a real museum expert.

**BOOK Tickets £7.00**

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/beyond-the-label-secrets-of-the-spirals.html>

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**    **Heritage Open Days**    **Lots of events!**  
<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.

Thanks to Alex Bowers & Nancy Jenkins for their helpful information this month

And we would love to hear suggestions for **future summer fieldtrips** for 2025  
Anywhere you've been recently that you think others would also enjoy  
(or sites on your hit list that you haven't made it to yet)?

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

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

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

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



Widdows Farm, Crank Road NGR SD 51400180

Photo: Roy Forshaw

**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 MAY 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.