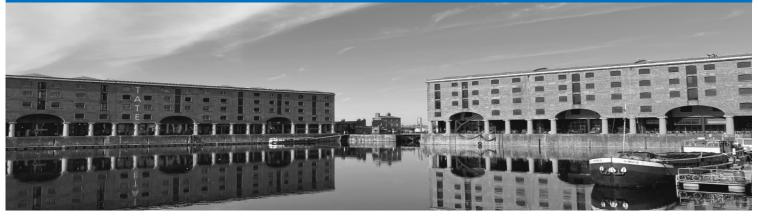
Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 1/2023 Registered Charity No 510831





Jan 2023

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Merseyside Archaeological Society

Hon Chair: Roy Forshaw

Hon Secretary: Heather Beeton

Membership Secretary: Vanessa Oakden (vanessa.oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

Hon Treasurer: Dave Roberts

(drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk)

Newsletter Editor: Sam Rowe

Disclaimer: Any views or opinions expressed by contributors to this Newsletter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Merseyside Archaeological Society.

Briefing

In this week's issue we welcome a new year and look forward to a host of Spring events. We have upcoming TV appearances, news of recent and upcoming projects, research on South Liverpool churchyards, and of course the AGM.



https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/

Membership Fees Due

A friendly reminder that 2023 MAS membership fees are due this month. Please note that the society has recently changed its bank account so if you pay by standing order or direct debit we would appreciate if you can please check and update to the following details:

Account: Merseyside Archaeological Society

Bank: Lloyds

Sort Code: 30-90-89 Account No: 36508862

Reference: MAS Subs

If your contact details have changed in any way please complete a new membership form which you can download from our website https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/membership.html or email membership secretary Vanessa Oakden:

Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

From The Chair

A happy New Year to everybody. The nights are just starting to draw out and we can look forward to returning to in-person evening lectures and summer trips. The events group is working on a summer program of visits which we hope you will be able to attend. We may go further afield this season and cover a wide timescale. The problem is we have too many potential places to visit so we are editing our long list of potentials. We will provide the summer program for you shortly.

You will shortly receive information regarding the revisions to our constitution. The revisions are to bring us more in line with the Charity Commission and is fundamentally about safeguarding the society's assets. Your will be receiving constitution documents along with the normal AGM paperwork within the next month. The Charity commission information will enable you to vote as to whether you agree with the amendments.

We will also need to decide about MAS Council membership. My 2-year tenure as Chairperson is completed and we will be looking for someone new to take the post. We are also always looking for new members on Council. We meet quarterly by zoom so there is not too much inconvenience attending. Please can you email Heather Beeton or myself should you wish to be nominated as a council member or Chair.

The Council is also considering a new Conference and Journal which should hopefully materialize in a year or two. This is my last time you have to read me rambling on as Chair so thank you for putting up with me for the last 2 ½ years.

Best Wishes Roy Forshaw, Chair

Wirral History Fair 2023

Saturday 25th March 2023

Call For Volunteers!

The society is attending the Wirral History Fair at **Port Sunlight on 25**th **March**. The society has booked a table and we will be selling our publications and publicising the society. We will be looking for volunteers to staff our stall throughout the day. You do not have to attend all day. The more volunteers we have the more time we have available to wander around and talk to other similar minded organisations. Please contact me on roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk should you wish to help out on the day.

Website: https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/2023-wirral-history-fair?pli=1

Meet The Member

In this edition, we get to know a bit more about one of our newest council members, Alex Bowers.

Alex is an archaeology PhD student at the University of Central Lancashire. She first got involved with Merseyside Archaeological Society when she started a 6-month internship at the Museum of Liverpool in February 2022. She then continued her MAS membership and even applied to be a council member for the society.

What do you enjoy most about MAS?

The opportunities not only to attend lectures, archaeological walks and tours, but also the chance to share your own research, interests and ideas. It isn't just about going to events but being able to spend time with people who are as enthusiastic about archaeology as you are.

What is your favourite archaeological memory?

My interests lie in the biological side of Archaeology, so my favourite memory is the first time I had the opportunity to excavate human skeletal remains from a Medieval cemetery site. It was the first real test of all my knowledge and skills in

If you could travel back in time where would you go and why?

I would travel back to the Anglo-Saxon period, because I am currently studying this era for my PhD research. It would be exciting to be able study the people, culture and way of life first-hand to see how they adapted and changed after the end of the Roman Empire.



Ron Cowell's Retirement

Ron Cowell, Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology, has retired from the Museum of Liverpool. Ron's contributions for over forty years have transformed the understanding of the prehistory of Merseyside and the North West of England. Through programmes of fieldwalking, excavation, research and publication, Ron has revealed brand new sites and stories. These have formed the content for numerous museum displays and a range of talks, popular and academic publications, workshops and events. Below, Ron talks about just two of the sites he has worked on.

As a believer in the power of things coming full circle. I feel so lucky that my time at NML has been topped and tailed by discovering, 25 years apart, the two most ancient and significant local prehistoric hunter-gatherer sites, at Greasby and Lunt Meadows, Sefton that when I started, we never even suspected were out there.



Ron will continue to be involved with the prehistoric archaeology collections and support the Wildlife Trust with the HLF 'Mesolithic Life: Past and Present' project at the Lunt Meadows Nature Reserve, in his new role as Honorary Research Associate.

Digging for Britain TV Appearance

The Museum of Liverpool welcomed Prof Alice Roberts and the Digging for Britain team to the Piermaster's Green Community excavation on Albert Dock last July. Filming took place over two days during which the site was filmed for Series 10, episode 6. Interviews took place with archaeologists Vanessa Oakden and Jeff Speakman as well as with volunteers on site. MAS member Jon Shelly who is featured in the episode spoke to Prof Roberts about the links between the site and his father's role working on the docks which also features a member of the Mersey and Dee Young Archaeologists club. Throughout the excavation MAS members Alex Bowers and Aedan Jones took control of the Dig Diary camera documenting the daily progress of the dig and capturing the volunteer's experiences.

The episode will air on BBC 2, Sunday 12th of February at 8pm and can be watched now via BBC IPlayer at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0dm82fz/digging-for-britain-series-10-6-ice-age-camp-and-a-saint-with-syphilis



CITIZAN Coasts in Mind New Project

CITiZAN, the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network are please to announce their new project 'Coasts in Mind'. Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) project team will spend 2023 hunting out indicators of coastal change, from community photographs, postcards, and oral histories.



@CITiZAN1 @MOLArchaeology @HeritageFundUK

Website: https://citizan.org.uk/

The Story of St. Bennet's Chapel and its Graveyard - Part 1

This is the first of a 2-part article on lost ecclesiastical buildings in South Liverpool and their associated funerary monuments. In order to put the data gathered from the MAS graveyard survey at All Saints Church, Childwall into context small pieces of additional fieldwork are being planned at other local churchyards which contain 19th century monuments. There were originally 9 such churches with churchyards, 8 of which still exist today. The ninth, St Bennet's Chapel, later known as Woolton Priory, was demolished in the 1870s although some of the monuments, mainly headstones, which were previously in its small graveyard can now be seen at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Woolton.

The Roman Catholics have had a place of worship in Woolton, which was held by the Molyneux family, since the beginning of the 18th century. In 1765 Mary Molyneux granted 12 acres of land in Watergate Lane, Woolton, to the Order of St. Benedict for the purpose of building a chapel and presbytery which would become known as St. Bennet's (Hand, 1913). A building is shown on Yates and Perry's map of 1768. A sequence of priests occupied the presbytery during the late 18th and 19th centuries and the chapel was subsequently enlarged by a Father Phillips. The tithe map of 1840 shows a building at right angles to Watergate Lane with a second building, adjacent to the lane, named as 'Chapel' (Fig. 1). The tithe apportionment records it as 'chapel, school, outbuilding and garden occupied by the Reverend Phillips'. Father Phillips died at the Priory in 1855 and was buried in the 'graveyard of the chapel' (Hand, 1913).

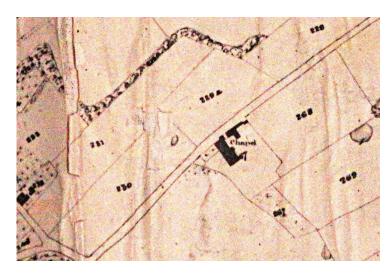


Fig. 1. Much Woolton Tithe map 1840 showing the Chapel on Watergate Lane

Little is known of the churchyard. According to the burial register the first interment was that of Mary Quick of Speke who was buried on February 6th 1813. In 1847 Father Phillips made a note in the burial register as follows: '1847. This was the noted Fever Year. Besides the above, eighty Catholics, principally Irish, were sent off (after being spiritually attended) to the receiving house at Prescot, where many died, or rather most died' (Hand, 1913). This is particularly interesting when looking at the data recorded from Childwall which is an Anglican church. Although the Childwall burial register notes a steady increase in the number of Catholics buried at All Saints from the second decade of the 19th century, the records for 1847 name over 50 Catholics interred that year, nearly all of them from either Much or Little Woolton.

The Bullen family had a vault and 'mausoleum' in the churchyard. This is likely to be the family of Hugh Bullen (1777-1829), brewer of Liverpool, who lived in Woolton at Highcliff on Acrefield Road with his wife Jane and nine children. His daughter, Henrietta, was baptised at St Bennet's in 1802 (Gateacre Society Pamphlet, 1988). The last burial at St Bennet's was one of the Bullen children in the 1860s and Hand records that 'an extraordinary discovery' was made at the time, when the body of one of the Bullens was found in the vault in a petrified condition (Hand, 1913).

By then the Roman Catholic population of Woolton had grown too large for the Priory and it was thought necessary to erect a larger place of worship. The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary's in the centre of Woolton village was opened in 1860 and in 1872-73 the chapel building at Woolton Priory was demolished and the materials used to enlarge the presbytery. The lawn immediately in front of the new extension covered the area formerly occupied by the old burial ground and the gravestones were buried a few inches below the turf (Fig. 2). It is not known what happened to their associated human remains. The mausoleum of the Bullen family remained undisturbed and by 1913 had become covered by a huge bank of ivy (Hand, 1913). The Priory, as the presbytery was known, survived as a private dwelling until the 1980s when it was demolished to make way for a housing development.

Cont.

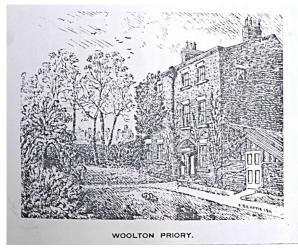


Fig. 2. The presbytery at Woolton Priory about 1913

Early work on the building construction site quickly revealed the gravestones which by then had been buried for over one hundred years. About 20 of them were subsequently moved to St Mary's Church and re-erected on the northern perimeter of the churchyard immediately adjacent to the boundary which overlooks a long drop into Woolton Quarry. This area is now overgrown and sealed off from the rest of the churchyard by a security fence. One other headstone and the Bullen 'mausoleum', a large chest-tomb (Figs. 3 & 4), were re-erected in the main churchyard. Permission to access and record the Woolton Priory monuments within St. Mary's and behind the security fence is currently being sought.



Fig. 3. Front view of the Bullen 'mausoleum'. There is no inscription but the 3 panels may originally have contained plaques. Also note the small holes in the band at the top where plaques may have been attached.



Fig. 4. End view of the Bullen 'mausoleum'. A metal plague inscribed 'THE BULLEN VAULT' can be seen in the centre. The small holes in the band at the top continue.

The next Newsletter will include an article on the first St. Peter's Church in Woolton.

Dave Roberts

References:

Hand C. R. 1913 Notes on Woolton Priory.

Gateacre Society Pamphlet at: http://www.liverpool.ndo.co.uk/gatsoc/history/walks/page165.html

Additional Information:

Merseyside Historical Environment Record at: https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results Single.aspx? uid=3305512&resourceID=1970

Latest project updates from Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

The year 2022 saw an increase of almost one third against the previous year in archaeological development-led investigations. The majority of these were evaluations (trial trenching or strip and record). Most resulted in archaeology of local importance being recorded but a few are of regional interest.



Fig. 1. Exposure of coal shafts at Windy Arbor, Whiston

A trial trench evaluation at Elephant Lane (by Salford Archaeology) in advance of a proposed housing development confirmed the former route of the Ravenhead Canal, Sutton. This was shown on Yates' map of 1786 running from Thatto Heath to the glass works at Ravenhead. Despite the unstable and waterlogged ground conditions the evaluation exposed the cut for the canal.

Following the results of a geophysical survey (by Magnitude Surveys) which suggested the presence of industrial activity, trial trenching was proposed for Land at Windy Arbor, Whiston, in advance of the second phase of a housing development. The phase 1 evaluation (by Wardell Armstrong) recorded a number of small, undated linear features and a fragment of Northern Gritty ware. However, of particular interest, the second phase of work provided a rare opportunity to record 18th century coal workings. Targeting the geophysical survey, three backfilled shafts were exposed (Fig. 1). The geophysical survey results suggest at least three more of these shafts are present. Works have stopped due to the risk to the development from the shafts and new layout for the housing development is being considered.

The site of the former Hondo supermarket, Upper Duke Street, Liverpool, is located on the remains of the former Church of St Mark, built 1803. Thanks in part to a very large and deep basement, the remains of the burial ground associated with the church were excavated by Wardell Armstrong (Fig. 2). The post-excavation assessment is ongoing, but we can report that a number of burials were recorded, with the vast majority of graves containing disturbed remains such as fingers and toes, proving as documents suggest, that the cemetery was cleared sometime prior to 1914. The presence of a group of skeletons in a nearby rock-cut cellar attracted the attention of the Merseyside Police and the local press. Archaeological evidence would suggest the bones were deposited in the cellar during the period of cemetery clearance, but we are unable to confirm this prior to dating.

AMS dating of a peat deposit from a site North of Kenyon's Lane, Lydiate, by Oxford Archaeology North placed the peat deposit within the early part of the later Mesolithic, with the pollen analysis providing evidence of probable light disturbance to the woodland canopy, interpreted as likely created through burning, in order to enhance local grazing activity. The new pollen data from this thin peat overlying the Shirdley Hill Sand at Kenyon's Lane therefore contributes further to understanding landscape evolution and probable human impact during the earlier part of the late Mesolithic in this area.



Fig. 2. First grave exposures at Hondo supermarket site, Liverpool

Alison Plummer, MEAS

Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2022

Heather Beeton – PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Cheshire. Greater Manchester and Mersevside

2022 was a busy year for the Portable Antiquities Scheme which for many working in the Scheme was the first full year without Covid restrictions since 2019. A total of 53,487 objects were recorded in 43,308 records - this is more than a 30% increase on 2021.

Within the North West, 1,607 objects were recorded in 992 records, of these 100 objects in as many records were reported from Merseyside. Most of these objects are reported from Wirral, largely due to recent metal detecting surveys carried out by Wirral Archaeology CIC. Some of their key 2022 finds include an early medieval silver Sasanian drachm of Khusrau II (LVPL-BED8F3) (Fig. 1) and complete medieval iron arrowhead (LVPL-18B0A6) (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Sasanian drachm of Khusrau II from Wirral, minted in Shiraz (Iran), dating to c.AD 615-18. © National Museums Liverpool.



2. Complete medieval iron tanged arrowhead dating to the medieval period, c.AD 800-1100. © National Museums Liverpool.

Finders of chance archaeological finds from England and Wales are able to report their discoveries to their local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) - their details can be found here: https://finds.org.uk/contacts

You can meet your local FLO, Heather Beeton at any of her local finds days, her events in Merseyside are on the following dates and locations:

Museum of Liverpool

3rd Thursday of each month, excluding January, August and December

Time: 10:30-12:30

Lady Lever Art Gallery, Wirral

Saturdays

21st January; 1st April; 1st July; 7th October

Time: 10:30-12:30

No booking required but do double check with the FLO that the event is still going ahead.

Email: heather.beeton@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Phone: 0790 2401 806

Lectures and events

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.

See: https://www.liverpoolguakers.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

N.B. 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 lecture series January-April 2023

Date	Venue	Speaker	Topic
Jan 19th	ZOOM	Jane Kenney Gwynedd Arch Trust (GAT)	The Landscape of Neolithic Axes Project: studying a major stone source for Neolithic axe heads in North Wales
Feb 16th	In person	Current research by University of Liverpool students	Three talks by Liverpool students: George Downs. Autonomous itineraries: The future of archaeological tourism in Aegean Turkey, Catalonia and Merseyside. Emily Bowyer-Kazadi. Engaging with Archaeological Landscapes: Narratives from British National Parks Alex Bowers. Rickets, Resorption and Revolution: An investigation into the relationship between vitamin D deficiency in childhood and osteoporosis in adulthood in an 18th-19th century archaeological population.
March 16th	In person	Dave Roberts MAS	Childwall Churchyard Survey: Present and Future Work https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums -liverpool/community-archaeology/childwall-graves
April 20th	In person	All Members	AGM & Members' evening Your chance to tell us about interesting things, places and ideas!

Talk abstracts

19th January:

Jane Kenney is a very experienced field archaeologist and project manager working in North Wales for the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust ('GAT', based in Bangor). Besides being the director of major excavations such as the multi-period site at Parc Cybi, near Holyhead, Anglesey (Oxbow Books, 2021), she has conducted a research project studying the landscape of the Group VII (Graig Lwyd) Neolithic axe source near Llandygai, Gwynedd.

There have been important new finds and research evidence for UK Neolithic stone axe studies recently, and this talk will bring us up to speed with a 'local' source.

16th February: We are back in person at the Quaker Meeting House!

This is a new type of presentation (for MAS) that we hope could become an annual event. In a format similar to a conference session, we will have three short talks by Liverpool students on their new research. There will be time for questions after each talk, plus a general discussion session at the end. Please come along and support our local archaeology & heritage students and hear about their brand-new research into a variety of topics. You heard it at MAS first!

Cont.

George Downs: The Future of Archaeological Tourism in Aegean Turkey, Catalonia and Merseyside PhD in progress, University of Liverpool

National tourism agencies and large tour operators have historically prioritised the marketing of selected archaeological sites. The free-independent-traveller (FIT) market has seen significant growth in recent years, but how do individuals choose where to visit? My research focuses on two archaeological sites in each of three regions: Aegean Turkey, Catalonia, and Merseyside. A core aim is to explain how and why an archaeological site is valued by a tourist, by investigating the extent to which narratives of Colonialism (ancient and modern), Classicism and Religion contribute to the popularity of certain archaeological sites.

Emily Bowyer-Kazadi: Engaging with Archaeological Landscapes: Narratives from British National Parks

PhD in progress, University of Liverpool

How can engaging with archaeological landscapes impact both our wellbeing and our sense of identity? This is the main thread of my PhD research and will be discussed in relation to issues such as access, diversity, inclusivity and equality, as well as the way they are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. One method I am using to highlight these issues is Deconstructed Landscape Photography which looks at individual elements of the landscape, in a panel rather than the landscape as a whole.



Alex Bowers: Rickets, Resorption and Revolution: An investigation into the relationship between vitamin D deficiency in childhood and osteoporosis in adulthood in an 18th-19th century archaeological population.

Completed Masters dissertation. PhD on Anglo-Saxon children's remains recently started at University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

This study looked at how lifestyle and diseases in childhood can affect long-term health in the adult skeleton. The material came from a Quaker burial ground at Coach Lane, North Shields, England, Age at death, anatomical sex, and environmental factors were taken into consideration in the interpretation of the data.

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).

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 Liverpool could be used to add value to the data recovered from Childwall.

Summer meetings 2023. Where would you like to go?

From May to September we organise outdoor trips and visits. These can be to sites/monuments, museums, excavations, landscapes etc. They usually take place on a Saturday or Sunday but last year we also held an evening weekday visit in September (to wartime defences on the Sefton coast). The Events team have a few potential places in mind, but we welcome new ideas from anyone who can recommend somewhere they think society members would find interesting. It doesn't need to be in Merseyside, but it helps if it is somewhere relatively easy to travel to either by public transport or by car if members are willing to share cars and fuel-costs.

Please contact Sue, Mark or another member of the Events Team if you would like to suggest a whole, half-day or evening visit to a place of interest during this summer.

The Events Team are: Sue Stallibrass, Mark Adams, Ann Gemmel and our Chair, Roy Forshaw. Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk mark.adams@headlandarchaeology.com

Winter meetings 2023-24. Who, what & where would you like to hear about?

The Events Team is also beginning to put together a draft programme of winter talks for October 2023 – April 2024. Again, we have some potential ideas but welcome new suggestions from members. Is there a project you would like to hear more about? or a talk you have enjoyed that you think others would also like to hear? Whilst in-person speakers need to have relatively easy travel to Liverpool, online Zoom lectures can be delivered by people who are based far away. Please send suggestions to <u>Sue Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk</u> and/or <u>mark.adams@headlandarchaeology.com</u> or simply talk to one of the Events Team (Sue, Mark, Ann & Roy) at one of our forthcoming indoor meetings.