



Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 2/2019

Registered Charity No 510831

MAS Membership Subscriptions 2019

Subscriptions for 2019 fell due on 1st January. A renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

A note from the Chair

The AGM seems to have come round very quickly and I'm half way through my stint as chairman. At the AGM we elect the members of Council who run the society and act as trustees of the registered charity. The membership of MAS consists of professional archaeologists and very knowledgeable 'amateurs' and the make up of the Council reflects this distribution. For members of the society who work in full time jobs and especially those who have young families, helping to run the society and attending meetings can be demanding. I would like to express my thanks to all who contribute in whatever way to helping the society and making it a success.

The society also functions as a meeting place for the exchange of information and ideas and as a base for learning and extending experience. It is reassuring to see that the University of Liverpool is still offering Continuing Education courses in archaeology - many others have ceased to do so. Such courses are a source of new members who need to supplement or extend their knowledge of the subject. MAS has a number of members who have developed their interest in this way and a few have gone on to complete their education as far as post-graduate level.

For our events this summer, Mark Adams is arranging a mix of trips and is also providing an opportunity to gain experience in archaeological techniques. Unfortunately it is too expensive for us to arrange coach transport for field trips so we have to rely on car sharing or public transport. After a fallow year, the Council for British Archaeology is again coordinating The Festival of Archaeology which provides an opportunity to celebrate local archaeology. The festival theme this year will highlight the scientific and technical aspects of archaeology. Look out for activities in July - details will be on the festival website:

www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk

Maurice Handley

A Volunteering Opportunity....Graveyard Recording at All Saints, Childwall

Graveyard Recording at All Saints Childwall will continue in 2019. We are looking for additional volunteers to finish this work and welcome any MAS members who might be interested. No prior experience is required. For further details of what we are doing and how to become involved please contact Dave Roberts (e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk. Tel: 427 2980).

Merseyside Archaeological Society

Hon Chair:
Maurice Handley

Hon Secretary:
Liz Stewart

Membership Secretary:
Chris Wood
e-mail: C.M.Wood@ljmu.ac.uk

Hon Treasurer & Newsletter Editor:
Dave Roberts
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

Merseyside Archaeological Society publishes three newsletters each year. Contributions are invited on all aspects of archaeology in Merseyside. If you wish to contribute information please contact the Newsletter Editor. Please note that contributions may have to be edited.

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.

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MAS Lectures at The Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool

Merseyside Archaeological Society meets at the Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT. Tea and Coffee is available from 7 p.m. and lectures start at 7.30 prompt. All are welcome including non-members. There is a small charge.

Thursday April 18th AGM followed by a lecture from Sue Stallibrass entitled 'Where the wild things are: hunting in the frontier region of Roman Britain'

Hunting wild game animals was the sport of civilian and military elites, but their attitudes towards wild animals were extremely complex and often ambiguous or downright contradictory. This talk examines a range of archaeological evidence including animal bones, religious iconography, writing tablets and artefacts, to consider whether people were hunting for pleasure or enlightenment.

Field Trips 2019 (Provisional arrangements)

Sunday 12 May 13.30. Venue: Central Liverpool

Details: We'll start at Lime Street Liverpool and, using historic maps, follow the town's Civil War defences, the Pool, castle and other sites. The walk will take approximately 2-3 hours. Meet at the entrance to Central Library.

Sunday 23 June 12.30. Venue: Roman Wigan

Details: The Roman fort at Wigan, known as Coccium, was built early on in the Roman campaign into North West England, probably around 70 AD but was abandoned by 160 AD. The bath house was excavated in 2008 by Oxford Archaeology North. We'll meet at Wigan Wallgate station at 12.30.

If you wish to do some preparatory reading before this trip a free booklet entitled: 'Discovering Coccium. The archaeology of Roman Wigan. Greater Manchester's Past Revealed No. 3' can be found at:

https://diggreatermanchester.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/gmpr03_wigan.pdf

June (date to be confirmed). Venue: The Calderstones

Details: Provisional arrangements are in place for a preview visit to the Calderstones but are subject to construction timetables so dates are not currently available.

Saturday 13th July 10 a.m. Venue: Runcorn

Details: Trip in conjunction with Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society. Meet at 10.00am in the cafe at the Catalyst museum. Visit Spike Island and then walk across the Jubilee Bridge to Runcorn Old Town for lunch. Afterwards investigate the Bridgewater Canal and lock flight down to the Ship Canal. Walk back over the bridge or return on bus or train from Runcorn. There is a car park at the Catalyst museum and it can also be reached by bus from Liverpool or by train to Runcorn.

Saturday 24 August 10 a.m. Venue: Hilbre Island

Details: Roy Forshaw will guide a walk of Hilbre Island which has evidence for Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, Post-medieval and Victorian settlement and industry.

Details of meeting points etc TBC, please contact Mark Adams in advance.

Sunday 22nd September. Venue: Tong Castle & Church, Shropshire, Stafford Castle

Details: The church and castle at Tong have connections with Liverpool (and Shakespeare) via the Stanley family. The church also has the ruins of a medieval college. The remains of the castle are little known but well worth the trip. Details TBC

Contact: Mark Adams 07469 144227/07773938120 mhadams@rsk.co.uk if you require further information.

Merseyside Archaeological Society AGM

The 43rd Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th April 2019 at The Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool.

A copy of the Agenda is below:

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 27th April 2018
3. Reports
 - a) Hon. Chair's report
 - b) Hon. Secretary's report
 - c) Hon. Treasurer's report and appointment of auditor
4. Election of Officers and Council Members
5. Any Other Business

MAS Council 2019/20

Current nominations

Hon. Chair: Maurice Handley

Hon. Secretary: Liz Stewart

Hon. Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Dave Roberts

Membership Secretary: Chris Wood

Past Chair: Mark Adams

Events Organiser: Mark Adams (with subcommittee)

Ordinary Council Members: Ben Croxford, Clare Cunliffe, Roy Forshaw, Rob Philpott, Samantha Rowe, Sue Stallibrass, Vanessa Oakden,

Nominations will be accepted from the floor and by e-mail to the Society prior to the meeting.

<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/contact-us.html>

Last Year's AGM papers including Officers' reports can be found at:

[:https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/evening-lectures.html](https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/evening-lectures.html)

Finds Recording

Ben Jones, the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) at the Museum of Liverpool has created a new finds day that is hosted at the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight, Wirral. This is to replace the former visits to the West Kirby Metal Detecting Club, firstly as the demographics of metal detecting are changing and more independent finders are coming forward, secondly because it offers a weekend access to a FLO that was unavailable earlier.

The FLO is always interested to record your finds, whether they be from detecting or from fieldwalking. Objects which are over 300 years old are recorded with grid references or a well-documented find spot. If in doubt, bring it along!

This year's dates for the Lady Lever finds day are the first Saturdays of July and October, 10:30-13:30.

Ben Jones

Garstang Festival of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology University of Liverpool (70th anniversary Garstang Museum)

Events will take place on the following days:

Friday eve. 5th April 18.00-21.00 Public Lecture & Speed Date the Experts over Canapes at Victoria Art Gallery & Museum

Saturday 6th April 11.00-15.00 Hands-on get-involved events various venues: Please book each session separately.

Bookings Fri & Sat through eventbrite links available at :

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/archaeology-classics-and-egyptology/events/>

Both events are free but must be booked in advance.

Grave of WWI warhorse at Halewood given national protection as Grade II listed monument

Blackie was a horse owned by Lt Leonard Comer Wall and they both served from Sept 2015 on the Western Front in the 275th Brigade Royal Field Artillery 'A' Battery- 55th West Lancashire Division. In 2017, at Ypres, Lt Wall was killed (aged 20) and Blackie was badly injured by shrapnel. Blackie served in several other WWI battles including Arras, Somme and Cambrai.

At the end of the war, Lt Wall's mother bought the horse from the army, repatriated him, and lent him to the Territorial Riding School in Liverpool. In 1930 he was 'pensioned off' and retired to live at the Horse's Rest in Halewood (now the RSPCA Liverpool Animal Centre) until his death in 1942, aged about 35 years. Blackie used to lead the Liverpool May Day Horse Parade alongside another ex-warhorse, called Billy. On 23rd August 2018, the first National Purple Poppy Day occurred, in remembrance of the c 8 million horses, mules and donkeys that died in WWI.



Blackie's inscribed headstone Halewood RSPCA

Lt Wall, an only child, was a war poet. His poem, 'The Rose of Lancaster' was written in Flanders two months before he was killed. It included the line 'We win or die who wear the Rose of Lancaster' and this was adopted later in 1917 as the motto of the 55th West Lancashire Division. It can be seen on their monument in the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool.

Lt Wall was born in West Kirby. His body was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Flanders, and he is commemorated on a memorial plaque inside St Bridget's Church, West Kirby, and also on the Hoylake & West Kirby war memorial at the top of Grange Hill.

In his will, Lt Wall requested that, if he did not survive the war, his faithful horse Blackie should be buried with his medals or decorations. This was done, and Blackie's grave slab is inscribed with his military affiliations, like a soldier's.

In 2017 the grave received Grade II listing because of its historic interest, reflecting the close bonds between soldiers and their horses on the Western Front. It is a very rare memorial to an individual animal that served in, and survived, the major battles of the First World War. The gravestone is listed in the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) as entry 1436263.

Thanks to Christine Longworth for the reference to the National Purple Poppy Day ceremony.

Text by Sue Stallibrass, Photo by Roy Forshaw.

'New' old maps of Liverpool

A few years ago whilst undertaking research into Fort Crosby for the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership I came across several references to maps and plans of other batteries in the Liverpool area held by the National Archives at Kew. At the time I wasn't able to access them, there was too much to look at for Fort Crosby, but I made a mental note to go back for a look as I'd got quite interested in Liverpool's defences. A lot has been written on the subject, including Alison Burns' excellent booklet on Fort Crosby:

https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten_Fort_Crosby_Dune_Heritage_Revealed

and Ken Pye's work on the wider military history of Liverpool:

https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Liverpool_s_Military_Heritage.html?id=mB-zuwEACAAJ&redir_esc=y

but I wondered whether there was more to say.



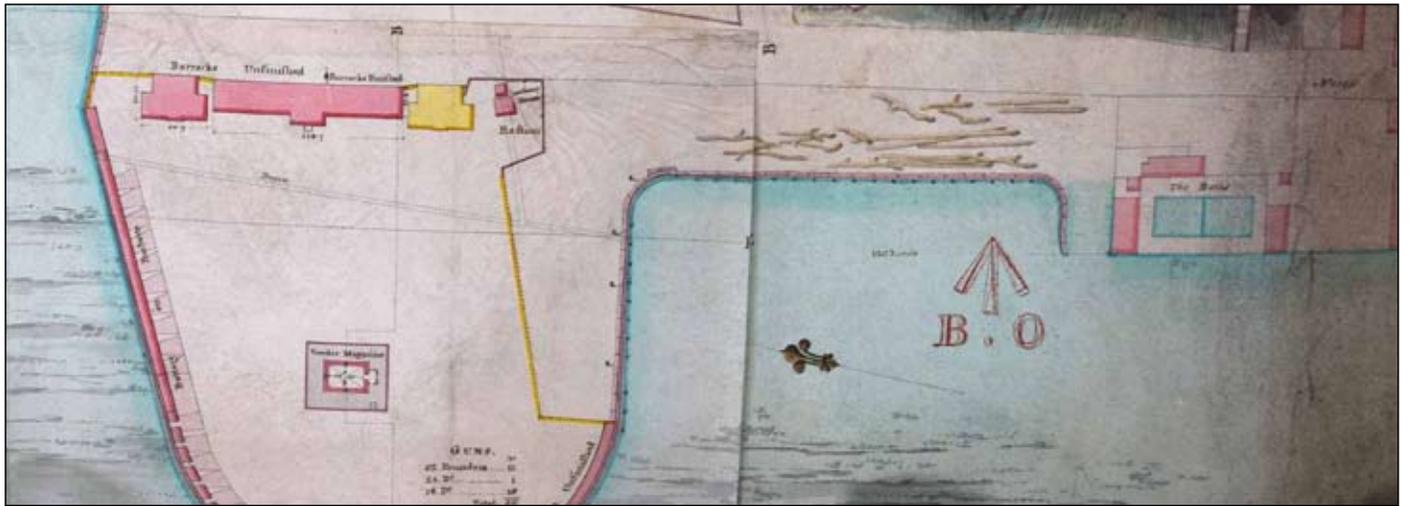
A Survey of the Town of Liverpool and River Mersey from thence to the Sea dated 1759

In February I managed to find the time for a return visit to Kew and it was well worth it. I spent the entire day in the search room photographing maps ranging in date from 1759 to the early 19th century. I've not had time to tot up how many maps I looked at but it's well into double figures. There are too many to describe in a newsletter article but a sample are illustrated below.

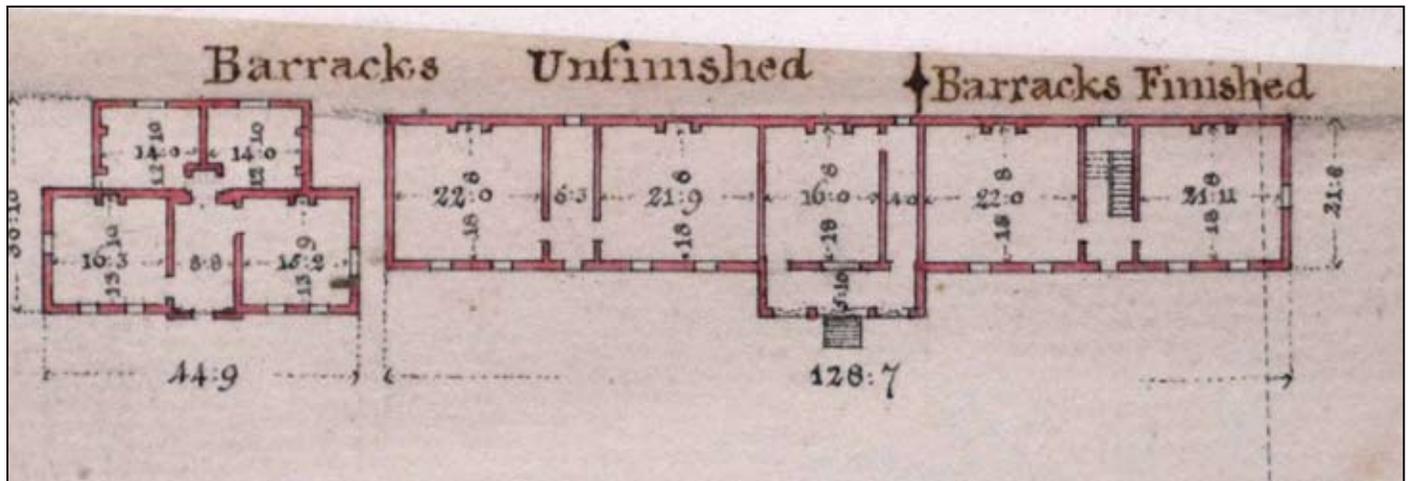
The earliest was 'A Survey of the Town of Liverpool and River Mersey from thence to the Sea' dated 1759 which is the third oldest map of the area I know of, though the 1644 De Gomme survey of Liverpool's defences doesn't give much detail and the 1725 Chadwick plan only covers central Liverpool. This survey includes the wider area around Liverpool in detail not seen until much later. There are actually several different copies of this map in the file, they were used as a base to show different proposals for new artillery batteries, though some are relatively rough tracings. It's not clear who the surveyor was, at least one was signed on the back by a Captain Heath, though it's not clear whether he was the surveyor or the designer of the proposed fortifications or both. I've attempted to identify him, as yet without success.

There's far too much of interest on the survey to go into a detailed description here, but highlights include the water mill at Bootle, the Merchant's Magazine on the Wirral coast, the Woodside and Seacombe Ferries and details of central Liverpool.

The second survey is titled 'Plan No. 1 Shewing the Present State of the New Battery Built near the North End of the Town of Liverpool as in April 1782' by James Bramham and is dated May 2nd 1782. This is the fort which was situated at the north end of Princes Dock but was demolished 1810-20 when John Foster constructed the dock. Construction of the fort had probably begun in c. 1776, probably



Detail from the 1782 Plan showing the Barracks, Magazine and Baths



Interior detail of the Barracks

as a response to the American War of Independence, but the barracks and other elements are shown as unfinished on Bramham's plan so work clearly continued into 1782. The plan gives several other details not seen on other drawings of the fort (e.g. on Horwood's 1803 plan of Liverpool). The structure in the centre is a magazine, the drain crossing the site is possibly that exposed by Salford Archaeology's recent excavation. It is listed as having 11 32 pound, 1 24 pound and 18 16 pound guns, though it isn't made clear whether this was the intended complement or the actual complement at the time of the survey. The flap covering the fort lifts to reveal an internal plan of the barracks.

The plan also shows interesting details of the surrounding area including the Baths, slipways around the fort and brickyards on the northern fringes of Liverpool. The same file includes sections across the fort and elevation drawings of the buildings.

The files also include plans by John Foster of the proposals for Princes Dock which I'll write about in the next newsletter.

Mark Adams