



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Ref 91/2

The University of Liverpool
P. O. Box 147
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September 1991

Although the summer has not produced the kind of weather we have been used to over the last couple of years, we have yet again enjoyed a well supported programme of field trips.

The series started in May, when David Hill followed up his lecture on Offas's Dyke with a field trip to Old Oswestry Hill Fort and various points on the Dyke, which we viewed from the English and Welsh sides. The trip was conducted by David with his usual energy and enthusiasm which fired everyone's imagination and contributed to a most enjoyable day.

Our second trip was more local, led jointly by Peter Davey and Rob Philpott, around the Norton landscape, looking at archaeological evidence around Norton village in Cheshire. Following a visit to Rob's excavation at the village the day finished at Norton Priory which gave some of our newer members a chance to visit the site and museum.

In July, Simon Ward followed up his March lecture with an expedition around Roman Chester. This proved to be a particularly interesting visit as it not only took in the standing remains above ground but also included a number of remains surviving in the shop cellars in the city.

Our final trip of the year to commemorate National Archaeology Day proved to be the most popular visit of the summer. The afternoon on Hilbre Island, organised in conjunction with Wirral Country Park was booked up four weeks in advance. Fifty people (young and older) braved the elements to take part in a variety of activities and hear of many of the aspects of the island's distant and more recent past. Our sincere thanks go to Dorothy O'Hanlon, Adam King, Mary Ward, Gillian Goddard and Roger White for their contributions to a very successful day. We hope to organise something similar for next year so book early!!!

Finally, I should like to thank Ken Lamb for all his efforts in organising the summer trips, a task that has been well rewarded with a good attendance at all the events.

During the autumn we start the usual lecture programme culminating with our usual Christmas gathering. If anyone has any ideas for a venue, format, etc, please get in touch.

Dave Roberts

NORTH WEST WETLANDS SURVEY

This is a survey, started in 1989, of the peat deposits of north West England sponsored by English Heritage and organised through Lancaster University. The aim of the survey is to assess the relationship between prehistoric archaeology and the peat deposits in the region, which stretches from Cumbria to Shropshire and Staffordshire, map the surviving peat and identify the threats to its continuing existence, so that conservation, rescue and management strategies for these important deposits can be formulated.

Peat is important because its waterlogged nature allows the survival of organic material such as bone, wood, plant materials, etc, that is absent from dryland sites, and thus dramatically improves the understanding and importance of archaeological sites. Work in the wetlands of Somerset and East Anglia has already produced many nationally important sites and features.

The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit are in the second year of a projected seven year programme, working in north Lancashire and Cumbria. The first season's work in Merseyside, which is being undertaken and partly financed by Liverpool Museum, is almost completed, and an interim report is now being prepared. The survey of Merseyside will be completed by April 1992 and the report, which will be the first of the County Survey Reports for the region, will be ready by the winter of that year.

The survey is basically carried out through a programme of field walking the peats, which are largely arable land in Merseyside, and their immediate dryland margins for archaeological and environmental evidence. A separate programme of coring the peat to recover the palaeoenvironmental evidence is also being undertaken across the region by Lancaster University, although the work of Jim Innes through the 1980's in Merseyside has already given the county the basis of a vegetational history for the prehistoric period.

In Merseyside the peats are largely confined to the northern part in a belt stretching from east of Rainford in St Helens, through Simonswood and Kirkby in Knowsley, to the Sefton coast near Little Crosby. The central areas have not been studied much this season, except for monitoring the peat cutting of Simonswood Moss, as previous fieldwalking by Liverpool Museum staff has already produced evidence of small hunter gatherer sites of about 6500-3500 BC on sandy soils adjoining the peats.

The peats in St Helens are still deep, generally over 2 m, and in some areas over 4 m deep, although the dryland margins surveyed so far suggest that the areas around these higher basin peats were not intensively settled. The main evidence relates to scattered flint artefacts, mainly of neolithic or bronze age date from the adjoining mineral soils, although a possible post structure has been noted under the peat near Mossborough Hall in Rainford, which is to be investigated in this area, as a single microlith (projectile tip) that was found is the first mesolithic communities (7500-6500 BC), although this still compares badly with the evidence for this period on the Wirral. It does, however, extend the local pattern and provides some optimism that more will be forthcoming in the eastern part of the county.

The second main area to be investigated this season has produced results of a totally different nature. Fieldwalking in the areas around Little Crosby has provided evidence of at least sixteen prehistoric sites in a small area around the surviving peat. There is a slight early mesolithic presence, at least five sites of late mesolithic date, a number that are difficult to date, but may also be mesolithic, and about nine later neolithic, early bronze age sites. The peat here is much shallower and in one area to the east is largely confined to a wide channel from which small patches of sand are emerging, and which have produced most of the mesolithic evidence. This is most important because it seems likely that more sites are contained beneath the surviving peat, which is being drained, farmed, and slowly disappearing. As sites appear they are obviously going to be unaffected by the plough, and thus, well preserved, and the adjoining peat channel should give associated environmental evidence. An agricultural trench cut through one area of the channel has shown that buried soil, probably of mesolithic date, does survive under about 30 cms of peat.

The neolithic sites are slightly higher up the sides of the slight valley and appear to have respected the peat lying in the channel as there are no sites of this type within the mesolithic sites. They do however, also skirt a wider belt of peat to the north west of the channel, the pollen from which shows evidence of woodland clearance and possible cereal farming during the mid to last third millennium BC, which is probably connected with the neolithic settlement in the area.

To the west of these sites a band of peat stretches to the present coast and is overlain by blown sand which dates to some time after about 2,000 BC. A little flintwork has been found in this area suggesting light use of the dune areas, possibly in the bronze age. So far no good evidence for buried soils has been found on this coastal plain but it is likely that the peat and sand are covering elements of a buried landscape relating to the mesolithic and neolithic periods. This whole area is now the most important for prehistoric settlement in north west England, matched only by the coastal plain in west Cumbria, and it is hoped that further work next season will enhance its importance and value to prehistoric archaeology in the region.

Ron Cowell

April 1991

CURATOR OF MERSEYSIDE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

Earlier this year, a new post, 'Curator of Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record' was created within the Field Archaeology Section of Liverpool Museum, funded wholly by English Heritage and the five District Councils on Merseyside.

The position is held by Gail Falkingham, who was previously employed within the Section as the Assistant Curator of Field Archaeology. This new post has been established to maintain and update the Sites and Monuments Record for Merseyside (S M R), to provide archaeological advice to the five district Councils and to respond to threats to sites of archaeological significance.

This post is initially for one year, subject to review in January 1992, with the hope that funding will continue for a further two years.

The S M R is the central database of archaeological information for sites within the county. It currently hold about 7600 records relating to a wide range of sites, landscape features and buildings spanning the prehistoric to industrial periods. It was originally set up in 1984 on the basis of archaeological surveys carried out within the five districts, but since that date, a wide range of new information has come to light from projects on environmental, prehistoric, Roman, medieval and industrial archaeology, which is now to be fed into the S M R system.

There has been a constant need for archaeological advice on planning, development control and conservation matters since this service was suspended in 1986 with the abolition of the Metropolitan County. With the support of the recent Planning Policy Guidelines note 16, published by the Department of the Environment, which advocates consultation with archaeologists on such matters, it is now hoped that a greater number of sites threatened by development will be preserved and that those faced with destruction will at least be properly recorded by means of excavation, watching brief or photographic survey.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

24 October 1991	<i>'Waxing lyrical about Swinegate'</i>	Nicholas Pierson, York Archaeological Trust
14 November 1991	<i>'Recent fieldwork in Dorset'</i>	Peter Davey, University of Liverpool
5 December 1991	<i>Christmas Party</i>	Details to be arranged
16 January 1992	<i>'Recent discoveries at Tintagel'</i>	Prof C D Morris, Glasgow University
20 February 1992	<i>'The Picts in Orkney'</i>	Dorothy O'Hanlon
19 March 1992	<i>Excavations at Castleshaw Roman fortlet</i>	Norman Redhead, Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit
16 April 1992	<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	Speaker to be arranged

Meeting commence 7.30 pm at Liverpool Museum , William Brown Street. Christmas venue is to be arranged.

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JORDAN EXHIBITION

The award winning temporary exhibition gallery at Liverpool Museum is the scene of another international exhibition. *'Jordan: Treasures from an Ancient Land'* is open from 3 May to 3 November 1991 following the initial suggestion by Her Majesty Queen Noor al-Hussein of Jordan.

Jordan sits at the hub of the Middle East, a vital and wealthy region of the world. In ancient times it was a major communications route in contact with the great empires of Egypt, Assyria, Persia and Rome. The two best known sites are Petra, the 'rose red city half as old as time', with its kaleidoscopic rock formations from which magnificent temples and tombs were carved, and Jerash, the world's finest example of a surviving provincial Roman city.

For Dr Piotr Beinkowski, Curator of Egyptian and Near Eastern Antiquities, the royal approval of his surveys and excavations in Jordan over the last ten years in a culmination of what he sees as tremendous progress in the understanding of this vital Middle Eastern state. *'Until recently, Jordan has been relatively unexplored in contrast with say Israel or Egypt where extensive excavations have taken place. The work in Jordan is only just beginning and its progress is helped by the very flexible attitude of the Department of Antiquities there in lending to us collections and finds for study'.*

Over 600 items from Jordanian collections, Paris, and Palestine Exploration Fund, the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum and Liverpool Museum will be on show and divided into six themes - Sculpture, Pottery, Applied Arts, Mosaics, Writing and Folk Costume and Jewellery.

The book to accompany the exhibition, *'The Art of Jordan - Treasures from an Ancient Land'* edited by Dr Bienkowski and with a foreword by Queen Noor is also available at the Museum shop priced £7.95 (paperback) and £14.95 (hardback).

Lunchtime Lectures - by advanced booking only, admission free

Thursday 3 October Writing from Cuneiform to Arabic
Thursday 24 October Petra

Further details please contact the Education Section at Liverpool Museum on (051) 207 0001 ext 211/296.

Saturday Day School

The other side of the Holy Land - Jordan and its Archaeology

A day school organised in conjunction with the University of Liverpool and the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History.

Contact the Department of Continuing Education, Liverpool University (051) 794 2520.

WIRRAL GROUP

Progress on fieldwork reported in Newsletter (90/4)

What is cubic, made of sandstone, bears a relief carving of a cross on one side and carvings of a rose on the two adjacent sides?

Don't know? Well neither do we, but we would be pleased to hear from anyone who does.

This artefact comes from Leighton Hall Farm, where its presence and inaccessibility was noted in the last Newsletter (90/4).

A further visit was made to the now empty barn and photographs were taken. The cube of stone is loosely placed in a brick wall of the barn interior and is of light coloured sandstone measuring sixteen centimetres along its sides. The relief on the front is that of a free standing plain cross upon a four tier plinth, whilst the roses rest within hexagonal recesses and have an eight petal formation with a central core.

The barn itself is a complex building with many alterations of which the north gable wall is the most easily recognised. This wall is part of an earlier domestic building with mullioned windows and internal timbers bearing the date 1666, though this date need not, of course, be contemporaneous with the stone.

A further visit was made to Castle Fields in Burton. Here permission was sought for access to the private woodland in order to search for any traces of earthworks. The owners, whilst being sympathetic, had to refuse us because recent storm damage had left many trees in a dangerous condition. We shall try once more next winter when the trees have been made safe and the undergrowth has receded again.

Some research into the recent glacial exposures at Caldby has revealed some interesting aspects on the origins and antiquity of these features. The sections of water worn pebbles, clay and sand, represent deposits left by the last fluctuations of the glacial advance and regression in the North West, (ie, Devensian) when, it is estimated, the ice sheet covering the area was approximately 450 metres of 1,200 foot thick. This is over Twice the height from sea level to the top of the tower at Liverpool Cathedral! The subsequent melt of this vast quantity of ice produced enormous river torrents which in turn produced millions of tons of gravel, silt and sand. The Caldby cliffs therefore represent a microcosm of the gigantic forces which were at work forming our local landscape some fifteen thousand years ago.

January this year saw group members helping the Cheshire County Council Archaeological Services maintain a watching brief at a development site in Neston. This site, situated close to the graveyard of the Parish church was thought to have considerable potential since the church has an early dedication and there have been several Roman and anglo-Saxon finds from close by. Many visits were made in the wake of the earth moving machinery but without any positive results.

Two evening field trips have been made this year. The group investigated various earthworks within a wood close to Cherry Tree Farm on the Hinderton ridge north of Neston. The earthworks were thought to be clay diggings and associated trackways.

More recently a visit was made to Hargreave Hall Farm near Raby. The farm lies on the route of the Roman road from Chester to the North Wirral and has linages to an early boundary location. (Dodgson, Place names of Cheshire, part 4, P2228)

The farmer, a real enthusiast, took us on a tour of his house, farm buildings and land which lasted until 10 pm when he reluctantly let us go. His land is distinguished by having the only prominent burial mound in the Wirral. The house itself, a victorian pile, rests on the site of at least one much earlier building as is evinced by the retained area around the staircase (timber framed with a 'narrow' brick infill). Under the living room is a sandstone walled cellar with some interesting features including a padstone let into the floor and niches in the walls. Subsidence in the gardens to the house may indicated another, or possible two backfilled cellars.

Members have lately assisted Rob Philpott at his dig in Irby where much was learnt and enjoyed. The weather was kind, the company convivial, (especially the lady who supplied the tea and biscuits!) and the Unit staff patient and willing to explain the excavation techniques and findings. Our thanks to Rob and Co.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE
Staff of the Department of Archaeology and others. 10 mtgs. Mon fortnightly 7 Oct 7.30-9.00. Advance enrolment essential. £19(£13)(£7)(£1 reduction for M.A.S. members) LGU 086

(in collaboration with Merseyside Archaeological Society)
Archaeologists are becoming increasingly involved in scientific techniques as a means of understanding past societies and environments. Such techniques include a range of dating, prospective and analytical processes. This course, which is aimed at the layman, is intended to explain some of these processes.

DAILY LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT
Mr Donald Lowie. 20 mtgs. Tues 8 Oct 2.00-3.30. £30(£20)(£10) LGU 085
A wealth of scenes from temples and tombs, plus artifacts recovered from archaeological excavations bring the ancient Egyptians and their culture vividly to life. This illustrated course examines pharaohs and their subjects at work and play.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MERSEYSIDE
Dr Jennifer Lewis. 20 mtgs incl field mtgs. Wed 9 Oct 10.30-12.00. £30(£20)(£10) LGU 023

This course considers the nature of archaeological evidence which has emerged from a study of the Merseyside area. Using examples of local sites students will be introduced to archaeological techniques relevant to the study of our area. Field visits are included. No prior knowledge is necessary.

THE LIVES AND LOVES OF PHaraohs AND MORTALS: A LOOK AT THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS THROUGH THE WRITTEN RECORD II
Ms Amy de Joia. 10 mtgs. Wed 9 Oct 7.30-9.00. £19(£13)(£7) LGU 102

A look at the life and times of the kings, queens, and commoners of Ancient Egypt. Using the literature of the day (in translation) as the main source of evidence, we will build up a full colourful picture of many Ancient Egyptian individuals and the world they lived in. Newcomers welcome.

INTRODUCTION TO FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRITAIN*
Dr P.J. Davey. 24 mtgs. Thur 10 Oct 7.00-9.00. No. 19 Abercromby Square, University of Liverpool. £38(£25.30)(£19) LGU 802

How do archaeologists discover ancient sites? How are sites recorded and preserved for the future? The course will provide an introduction to archaeological sites and survey methods, arranged to local sites. No prior knowledge required.

MEDIAEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN EAST NORFOLK

Dr P.J. Davey. 12 mtgs. Mon 11 May and Mon 1 June 7.00-9.00, and weekend 22-25 May in Norfolk: students will arrange own transport and accommodation (not included in fee). Advance enrolment essential. £25(£17)(£9) LGU 087
At Domesday, East Norfolk was the most densely populated area in England. It still retains many fine medieval sites and two of the most important medieval towns in England - Norwich and Yarmouth. The aim of the course is to introduce the area and a wide range of medieval remains.

ELLESMERE PORT

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CHESHIRE: AN INTRODUCTION
Mr Adrian Tindall. 10 mtgs incl field mtgs. Tues 14 Jan 7.30-9.00. Stanney Evening Centre. £25(£17)(£9) ELS 001
A beginner's guide to the archaeology of Cheshire, provided by the County Archaeologist. Ten evening lectures followed by a day's visit to

RUNCORN

NORTON PRIORY TEACHING EXCAVATION
Dr P.J. Davey, Dr J.M. Lewis and others. Summer term, 1992, dates (Sun-Fri) to be confirmed. RUN 001

LANCASHIRE

ALSTON HALL, LANCASHIRE
Details from and enrolments to: 'The Principes', Alston Hall, Longridge, Preston, PR3 3BP (Tel: 0772 784661)
Images of Ancient Egypt
Dr Barbara Watterson, 3-5 Jan 1992 BRM 001

Advance enrolment is essential for all day-schools
Fee: £10(£8)(£5) unless otherwise stated

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOLY LAND: JORDAN AND ITS ARCHAEOLOGY
Dr P. Bienkowski and others. Sat 26 Oct at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool 3. LGX 004

(in collaboration with National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside)
This day-school coincides with the major exhibition, at Liverpool Museum until 3 November, Jordan. Treasures from an Ancient Land.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Mr A.R. Millard and Prof K.A. Kitchen. Sat 30 Nov. LGU 005
The Bible is the most widely-read ancient book, but to understand its message clearly some knowledge of the world in which it was formed is helpful. Excavations in the Near East and Egypt show what that world was like and give specific information about various parts of the Bible story.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS: INTERPRETATION AND PRESERVATION

Specialist speakers. Sat 25 Jan. LGU 075
The fifth day-school in this series continues the theme of the archaeological approach to recording buildings for purposes of interpretation.

STONES, BONES AND POTS: EARLY TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR PROBLEMS
Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon and Mr Peter Moore. Sat 22 Feb. Teachers' Art Centre, Liverpool Institute of Higher Education, St. Katharine's College, Stand Park Road, Liverpool 16. CHL 005

The aim of this day school is to examine some of the problems involved in prehistoric technologies such as flint and bone working, and pottery making. Lectures will be followed by workshops where students will encounter some of these problems and their possible solution. There will be some practical work, and no previous experience is necessary.

GREEK GODS AND SANCTUARIES
Mr C. Mee and others. Sat 21 March. Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool 3. LGX 053

(in collaboration with National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside)
Designed to complement Liverpool Museum's display, this is an opportunity to learn more about ancient Greek religion. Lectures will cover the evidence for prehistoric Greek religious practices and will trace the way in which these developed in the Classical period. It will discuss the role of the Greek sanctuary, with particular reference to Delphi; and the types of votive dedications which were offered to the gods; and explore the links between Greek religion and literature.

SOUTHPORT

Advance enrolment is essential for all day-schools

THE VIKINGS IN THE NORTH WEST AND ISLE OF MAN
Dr William Rollinson. Sat 12 Oct. The Scarisbrick Hotel, Lord Street. £10.75(£8.75)(£5.75) SPT 002

The history of the Vikings was written by their enemies who, not unnaturally, took a somewhat jaundiced view of the activities of these 'ruthless, wrathful, foreign purely pagan people'. Consequently the public image of the Vikings is matched only by that of the Goths and the vandals - but is this reputation entirely justified? This course will investigate Norse settlers in the Isle of Man and Northern England and their legacy of place-names, runic inscriptions, carved crosses and dialect words.

FRODSHAM

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CHESHIRE: AN INTRODUCTION
Mr Adrian Tindall. 12 mtgs incl field mtgs. Tues 8 Oct 7.30-9.00. Gallery 3, Castle Park Arts Centre, off Fountain Lane. £25(£17)(£9) FRM 001

Cheshire boasts a rich diversity of archaeology, spanning over 10,000 years of human history - from barrows and bog bodies to castles and canals. This course will provide a beginner's guide to the archaeology of Cheshire, consisting of ten evening lectures followed by a day visiting some of the most country's more spectacular monuments. The lecturer is County Archaeologist for Cheshire.

STUDY TOUR

BELGIUM
Medieval Flanders
Dr P.J. Davey, 18-24 April 1992. An archaeological study tour based in Ghent and Brugge. Further details: Nov 1991 RES 012

CHESHIRE IN THE MIDDLE AGES: THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO THE REFORMATION

Dr J.T. Driver. 20 mtgs. Tues 8 Oct 10.30-12.00. Joseph Mayer Rooms, Bebington Civic Centre, The Village. £35(£22)(£12) BEB 002
A study of aspects of Cheshire history, including economic, social, religious and administrative developments, together with Cheshire's involvement in the Welsh and French wars and the Wars of the Roses. Straightforward documentary material will be used and visits arranged.

Pensby

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND THE COMMUNITY*
Mrs Elizabeth Davey. 20 mtgs. Thur 10 Oct 7.30-9.00. Pensby Secondary School for Girls, Irby Road, Irby. £31.80(£21.20)(£15.90) PNY 802

A study of the history of local buildings and their links with the community. It will range from castles, cathedrals, churches and manor-houses to the smaller houses, farms and cottages in which the majority of the people lived.

Wallasey

KINGS AND GODS IN ANCIENT EGYPT*
Dr Dorothy Downes. 10 mtgs incl field mtg. Mon 7 Oct 1991 10.30-12.00. Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Manor Road. £21.50(£15.20)(£12) WAL 801

The first part of the course will concentrate on the earliest Kings of Ancient Egypt, and the archaeological record. The lives of later Kings and their achievements will be used to illustrate the richness of this unique civilisation. A museum visit will form part of the course.

CHESTER

CASTLES AND BARONS IN CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES*
Dr P.J. Davey. 12 mtgs incl field mtgs. Mon 7 Oct 2.00-3.30. The English-Speaking Union, Stanley Palace, Watergate Street. £24.60(£17.40)(£13.80) CHE 807

The North West has one of the finest sequences of castles anywhere in Britain. This course will consider the reasons for castle-building and their role in political and economical life. Field visits will be arranged to local sites.

ROMAN AND NATIVE IN NORTH BRITAIN
Mr D.F. Petch. 20 mtgs incl field mtgs. Tues 8 Oct 7.30-9.30. Cloister 104, Chester College, Parkgate Road. £30(£20)(£10) CHE 014

Study of the Northern marches of Roman Britain has always concentrated on the Roman forts and frontiers. This course will also study the native peoples whom the Roman army faced in North Britain.

TOWNS AND CITIES OF ANCIENT EGYPT*
Miss Penelope Wilson. 10 mtgs. Thur 26 Sept 7.30-9.00. Upton High School, St James's Avenue, Upton. £22(£15.70)(£12.50) CHE 804

From Memphis to Alexandria, Thebes to Edfu, the course will examine the archaeological and textual evidence from the important towns of ancient Egypt to give an overall view of Egyptian society and culture from 3000 B.C. to 30 B.C.

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY-SCHOOL
Further details available: January 1992 CHE 001

MALPAS

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN
Dr R.H. White. 12 mtgs incl field mtgs. Thur 16 Jan 7.30-9.00. The Bishop Heber County High School, Chester Road. £25(£17)(£9) MAL 001

The Romans controlled Britain for 400 years. How did they conquer and settle it? How did they live? What gods did they worship? Often only archaeology can answer these questions. This course will look at the evolution of Britannia with special reference to Shropshire and Cheshire.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES
CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT
OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
AT 19 ABERCROMBY SQUARE
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THE BUILDINGS OF ROMAN BRITAIN

GUY DE LA BÉDOYÈRE

Like the rest of the Roman empire, Roman Britain had many impressive, attractive public and private buildings. In the post-Roman period these buildings were plundered for stone and allowed to fall into ruin leaving only the foundations. This book recreates the architectural landscape of Roman Britain, based on the surviving ground plans and the knowledge we have of Roman architectural and building techniques. The author concludes that, during this period, parts of Britain may have been at their most beautiful with temples and villas integrated into an unpolluted, pre-industrial rural landscape. The book is written for the dedicated amateur, although the professional archaeologist and architect will also find it a useful reference source.

Guy de la Bédoyère is an archaeologist, author and specialist in samian ware. He has also written The Finds of Roman Britain for Batsford.

16 colour and 185 b&w illustrations
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SUSANNA WADE MARTINS

This book sets out the history and development of farm buildings, the present state of those buildings and their future prospects. Often beautiful in themselves, farm buildings also serve as invaluable historical and archaeological records of bygone farming techniques and vanished ways of rural life. Partly based on pioneering research conducted in East Anglia, *Historic Farm Buildings* is fully illustrated with detailed plans and photographs of farms and farm buildings.

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Graham Webster is one of Britain's most distinguished archaeologists. This is a lively collection which draws together essays spanning his entire career. Some of the essays were previously unpublished and all of them reflect different aspects of his achievements as a field archaeologist and as an expert on Roman Britain. In addition, a full bibliography of his published works is included.

27 illustrations
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AGRICOLA AND THE CONQUEST OF THE NORTH

WILLIAM HANSON

First published in 1987, this is the first paperback edition of Dr Hanson's succinct reassessment of the literary, epigraphic and archaeological evidence about Agricola. He demonstrates that, despite the views of Tacitus (Agricola's son-in-law), Agricola's achievements in Britain were not exceptional and that the effects of his 'conquest' of Scotland were negligible.

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Stephen Shennan
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"This is a welcome book destined to make an important contribution to the increasingly mature and sophisticated use of quantitative and statistical methods in archaeological research. Texts of such clear value have been rare in archaeology..."

—SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES BULLETIN

This book introduces archaeologists to the most important quantitative methods, from the initial description of archaeological data to techniques of multivariate analysis. These are presented in the context of familiar problems in archaeological practice, an approach designed to illustrate their relevance and to overcome the fear of mathematics from which archaeologists often suffer.

1988, 364 pages, £22.00
ISBN: 0-12-639860-7

PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATIGRAPHY

SECOND EDITION

Edward C. Harris
Bermuda Maritime Museum, Mangrove Bay
with a Foreword by
Michael B. Schiffer
University of Arizona, Tucson

This book is the only text devoted entirely to archaeological stratigraphy, a subject of fundamental importance to most studies in archaeology. The first edition appeared in 1979 as a result of the invention, by the author, of the Harris Matrix—a method for analyzing and presenting the stratigraphic sequences of archaeological sites. The method is now widely used in archaeology all over the world.

Key Features:

- ▶ Covers a basic principle of all archaeological excavations
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PREHISTORIC HUNTER-GATHERERS

The Emergence of Cultural Complexity

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7.30 - 9.00 p.m.

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PROGRAMME

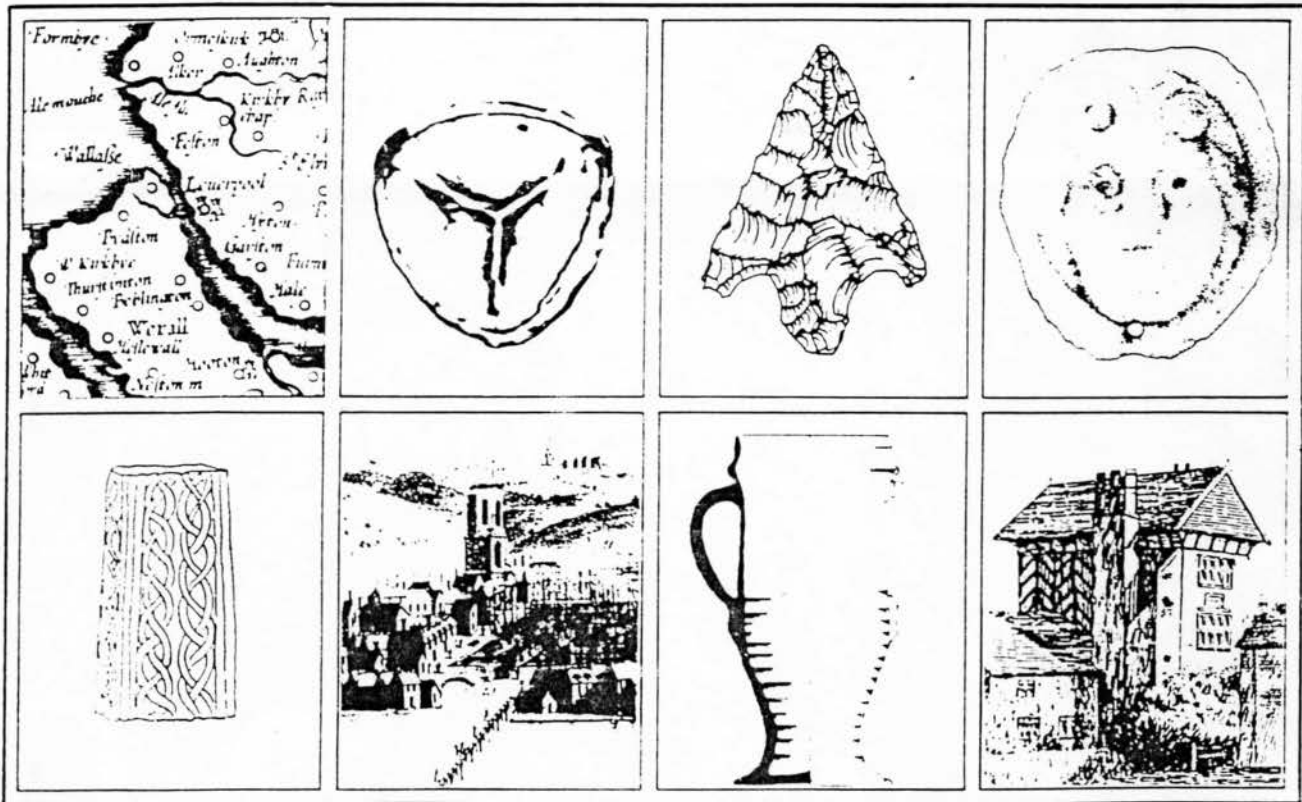
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|------------|---|
| 7.10.1991 | Professor Liz Slater, Department of Archaeology
"Men's eyes were made to look" |
| 21.10.1991 | Robert Connolly, Department of Human Anatomy
Preservation of human remains: Fact or Science
Fiction? |
| 4.11.1991 | Dr Richard Evershed, Department of Biochemistry
Modern approaches to the analysis of organic
residues on archaeological artefacts
Venue: Biochemistry Lab, corner of Brownlow
Hill and Crown Street |
| 18.11.1991 | Dr Alf Latham, Department of Archaeology
Uranium series dating |
| 2.12.1991 | Dr John Gowlett, Department of Archaeology
New developments in radio-carbon dating |
| 13.1.1992 | Miss Philippa Tomlinson, University of York
New developments in environmental sampling
techniques |
| 27.1.1992 | Dr Tim Rolph, Department of Archaeology,
Geomagnetism Lab
Magnetic dating |
| 10.2.1992 | Dr Tim Rolph
Visit to the Geomagnetism Lab, Physics Building |
| 24.2.1992 | Dr Alf Latham, Department of Archaeology
Uranium series dating |
| 9.3.1992 | Visit to the Uranium series dating laboratory,
Hartley Building |



Merseyside Archaeological Society

The University of Liverpool,
P.O. Box 147,
Liverpool L69 3BX

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1992 (REF 92/2)



Cover illustration from Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Volume 7

Annual General Meeting

This year's A.G.M. will be held on Thursday 9th April 1992 at 7.30p.m. in Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street. Nominations for Council are welcome.

OFFICERS

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(Tel. 207 0001 x260 daytime)

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(Tel. Formby 71802)

Ron Cowell, Fiona Philpott, Jenny Woodcock
Christine Longworth, Charles Williams.

Following the meeting, Ron Cowell will give the Society a lecture on the work of the North West Wetlands Survey. (An article on this subject appeared in our September 1991 newsletter).

Subscriptions

Those members who have yet to pay their subscription for 1992 are reminded that it was due on January 1st and a renewal form is enclosed.

Publications

Most members will have now received Volume 7 of the journal (free to those who were members in 1986-7). Further copies are still available - please refer to the publications sheet attached. This really is an excellent volume and our congratulations go out to the contributors, the editors and everyone else who helped in its preparation.

Volume 8 has a high standard to live up to and an update on progress will be included in the next Newsletter.

Newsletter

Contributions for the September Newsletter are eagerly awaited by the editors. Anything considered, no experience necessary, sweeteners and bribes always welcome. A free evening at home with the Philpotts to the most prolific contributor.

Send your hot copy no later than 15th August 1992 to:

Pauline Taylor, 175 Mulrhead Avenue, West Derby, Liverpool. L13 0AX.

or Mike Royden, 36 Barndale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool. L18 1EN.

Listed Buildings Consent

The Council for British Archaeology is one of five statutory bodies notified by local authorities about planning applications affecting listed buildings. Information is passed by CBA to local correspondents who are familiar with buildings in the area concerned. CBA North West, therefore, is keen to contact individuals who would be willing to comment about the archaeological implications of alterations to listed buildings. If you are interested in such voluntary (!) work in the Merseyside area please contact Jen Lewis, Department of Archaeology, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 3BX.

Birkenhead Priory

In 1989 plans were submitted by Wirral Council's Department of Leisure Services and Tourism for reroofing the North Range at Birkenhead Priory. Since the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument archaeological conditions were a prerequisite of granting planning permission. The North West Archaeological Trust was requested to undertake an assessment of the standing structure and to investigate areas adjacent to the building by means of trial excavation. A study of the standing structure was undertaken by PJ Davey, JE Lewis and JM Lewis. JM Lewis directed the excavations assisted by present students, graduates and post-graduates of the Department of Archaeology, Liverpool University who also undertook preliminary post-excavation work. Funding for the work was generously provided by the Leisure Services and Tourism Department of Wirral Council. The archive will be held by the Williamson Museum and Art Gallery (WAS 1311; BIKMG 8100).

Quite clearly repairs and alterations to the standing structure have been effected on several occasions. Most noticeable is the blocking of an opening at the north-east end of the range, alterations to window and door openings and the creation of a new staircase turret. The upper courses of the walls had also been rebuilt. Whilst the earlier work was probably a consequence of modification of the building during the post-Dissolution period, the most drastic alterations were undertaken at the end of the 19th century.

The present proposals included not only the creation of a new roof but also the construction of two new external staircases on concrete bases on the north and east sides of the building together with a new drainage trench westwards from the range to the road. In addition, the contractors intended to erect a post-fast hoarding and site notice board for the duration of the building work. Since there was a strong likelihood that such intrusions would disturb archaeological horizons trial excavation was undertaken in the areas to be affected and to the maximum depths of the contractors' work.

Five postholes (0.6m x 0.6m x 1m) were excavated for the contractors' hoarding across the area west of the range. In three of these it was clear that from present ground level down to natural material the area had been extensively disturbed. A larger trench (2m x 1m x 0.7m) set across the line of the new drain produced similar evidence. From this it was concluded that the disturbance related to demolition of the 19th-century house which had abutted the angle of the West and North Ranges of the Priory buildings. It was also supposed that the construction of this house had largely destroyed any earlier evidence for occupation.

A fifth posthole adjacent to the present boundary wall and the two postholes for the site notice board a short distance to the south produced rather different evidence. In all there were traces of a substantial sandstone wall with a rubble core. Fragments of pottery indicated that the wall was of medieval date and it is supposed that it represents a boundary wall west of the Priory.

Two trenches (2m x 1m x 0.5m) were investigated in the proposed areas for the concrete bases for the staircases. That on the north side of the range contained a massive sandstone rubble base overlain with concrete below the present, late 19th-century, buttress. Backfill against the buttress consisted of disturbed topsoil containing pottery of post-medieval and modern date. Archaeological horizons continued below the excavated levels but were not investigated. The trench at the east end of the range contained disturbed horizons with modern pottery and glass throughout its excavated levels. It was assumed that these represented a 20th-century levelling of the burial ground. However, subsequent contractors' work has now exposed the walls of a brick vault which extends to a total depth of 2m below present ground level on to a natural, but levelled, sandstone base. The west wall of the vault contains a blocked doorway with sandstone sill to the east of which lay the modern layers encountered during trial excavation. The vault had been emptied of its contents at an unknown date and now contains an entirely modern fill of soil and rubble. Archaeological investigation of the relationship between the vault and the surrounding area is to be undertaken in advance of contractors' work to complete the staircase base.

Jen Lewis
15 February 1992

Centre for Continuing Education, University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 3BX

Teaching excavation, Irby, Summer 1992: directed by RA Philpott, director of studies PJ Davey

Study Tour: Agricola to Severus: The Roman Frontier on the Tay
19-22 March 1992, led by DF Petch

Summer Academy at Chester College:

4-11 July 1992: Industrial Heritage of the North West
11-18 July 1992: History and Culture of Wales and its borders
18-25 July 1992: Chester, Walled City through the Ages
18-25 July 1992: Country Gardens and Houses of the North West
27-31 July 1992: Town and Country in Medieval Cheshire
11-17 Aug 1992: And All I Ask is a Tall Ship

Institute of Field Archaeologists Buildings Special Interest Group: Buildings Symposium at Chester
College, 25-27 September 1992

New award-bearing courses are planned to start in Liverpool in October 1992:

Diploma in Practical Archaeology
Diploma in Landscape Interpretation

MEDIEVAL TOWNS: FROM THE NORTH WEST INTO EUROPE - (LGU154)

Prof. M.W. Beresford, Dr. Alan Crosby and Dr. A.T. Thacker
Saturday, July 1992

In 1992 the Preston Guild will be celebrated, and the Economic Community will see the establishment of the Single Market. It is a good time to explore the roots of urban life. Professor Beresford will look at Europe as a whole, Dr. Crosby will take Preston, and Dr. Thacker, Chester, the metropolis of the medieval North West.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
LONDON**

Monday 6 April - Wednesday 8 April 1992

Lecturers: Mr P.H.W. Booth, M.A. Senior Lecturer,
Department of History, University of Liverpool
and Dr Mary Bonsall.

This residential course will comprise a practical introduction to the use of search rooms at Kew and Chancery Lane. Instruction and guidance will be given by the staff of the Public Record Office itself, as well as by members of the Centre for Continuing Education. Particular research interest and projects can be catered for, if advance notice is given. Because of the nature of the course, numbers will have to be strictly limited, and places will be offered in order of receipt of applications.

For further information about these courses please apply to the Director, Centre for Continuing Education at the above address.

Burial Practices in Roman Britain by Robert Philpott

Subtitled 'a survey of grave treatment and furnishing, AD 43-410' this 1990 Birmingham thesis is a study of the layout and the contents of all cremation and inhumation graves. This means that it is firstly an enormous compilation of data, which is presented in catalogue form and in numerous distribution maps. There is also extensive discussion of all types of grave and grave find: cremations in glass or pottery vessels, or amphorae; inhumations in stone cists; prone burials; decapitated burials; burials in boots; burials with jewellery, with weapons ... to name but a few. All extremely useful summaries, with not a few perceptive comments. No one writing on burials in the future will ignore this volume. 472p with maps. (BAR 219, 1991) Pb £38.00

Riches & Religion

The story of three buildings in Lydiate

Stephen W Manning

A hall, a private chapel and an inn - three buildings which have their own story to tell of people who lived in Lydiate and were responsible for their construction. So who built them? and when? Who lived at the hall? What were the names of the alehouse keepers?

Archaeologists and local historians have studied the buildings in detail. Their work tells us that the hall and inn were first built in the 16th century when the Ireland family were lords of the manor. The chapel was probably built at the same time as a place of worship for the family and their tenants.

This booklet contains historical and new drawings and photographs of the buildings. These illustrations have been drawn together to show something of the manner in which the buildings were constructed.

Two of them, the hall and chapel, are now in ruins but the inn, the Scotch Piper, survives as a picturesque thatched building.

Price: £3.99

Available from North West Archaeological Trust, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 1991
ISBN 0 9510204 5 5

English Heritage/Batsford Series

A major series bringing the past to life through the interpretation of the great historic monuments in which Britain is so rich, published in association with Batsford.

MAIDEN CASTLE

Niall Sharples

Maiden Castle is a well-known landscape feature near Dorchester, Dorset, made famous through Mortimer Wheeler's excavations. Niall Sharples, who was the director of the recent Maiden Castle archaeological project, explains the geographical, social, and economic importance of the site and describes the sequence of its development from early pre-history to conquest by the Romans.

144pp, 102 illus (12 in colour) May 1991

ISBN 0 7134 6083 0 Product code **XE11224** £12.95

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PROFESSOR BARRY CUNIFFE

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Flag Fen: Archaeology of the Fenlands Francis T. Pryor

Hadrian's Wall Stephen Johnson

Stonehenge Julian Richards

Maiden Castle Niall Sharples

Shrines and Sacrifice Ann Woodward

Housesteads Jim Crow

MEDIEVAL

Abbeys and Priors Glyn Coppack

Anglo-Saxon England Martin Welch

Castles Thomas McNeil

Church Archaeology Warwick Rodwell

Hadrian's Wall Stephen Johnson

Tintagel Charles Thomas

The Tower of London Peter Cornow

Wharram Percy: Deserted Medieval Village Maurice Beresford, John Hurst

Viking Age Britain Julian Richards

FLAG FEN

Prehistoric Fenland Centre

Francis Pryor



Francis Pryor, Director of Archaeology at the Fenland Archaeological Trust, has written a fascinating account of the discovery and excavation of prehistoric sites at Flag Fen and Fengate, located just east of Peterborough. The book begins with the excavation and archaeological techniques used, followed by a study of the development of the prehistoric landscape. The third part is devoted to the current project at the site, the investigation of an extensive prehistoric religious centre which is uniquely important to our understanding of the prehistory of this area.

144pp, 111 illus (12 in colour) June 1991
ISBN 0 7134 6753 3 Product code **XE11225 £12.95**

NEW

WHARRAM PERCY:
Deserted Medieval Village

Maurice Beresford and John Hurst

The explorations at the deserted Yorkshire village of Wharram Percy, extending over 40 years, began simply and almost accidentally in 1948. Since then a major research project has developed, led by historian Maurice Beresford and archaeologist John Hurst. The many discoveries, challenging previous assumptions about English village life, have helped to explain how scattered Saxon settlements grew into a village of some 30 houses by the fourteenth century then faded away into little more than an isolated church.

With over 100 maps, plans, reconstructions and photographs, this is the complete companion to Wharram Percy – whether you wish to study it before or after a visit, or whether you are simply an armchair archaeologist.

Maurice Beresford was Professor of Economic History at the University of Leeds until 1985. He is an Honorary Doctor of Hull and Loughborough universities and Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde. John Hurst joined the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in 1952, and between 1954 and 1973 was responsible for organizing medieval rescue excavations. He was a founder member of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group in 1952.

0 7134 6114 1 (paperback) 144 pages 113 illustrations
July 1990 £10.95
(Also available hardback £19.95)

CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY

Warwick Rodwell

England's churches and cathedrals form the country's most complete class of historic monuments, and are a great source of interest and information. Many, however, are threatened with redundancy or restoration. This book covers the archaeology of churches and churchyards – both above and below ground.

With over 100 plans, reconstructions and photographs, as well as suggestions for how to go about the subject, this is the complete guide for anyone who enjoys visiting old churches.

Warwick Rodwell, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, was awarded the Frenck Medal for distinguished services to church archaeology. He has directed major investigations on both Lichfield and Wells cathedrals.

0 7134 6194 4 (paperback) 208 pages 102 illustrations
1989 £12.95
(Also available hardback £19.95)

NEW

ABBEYS AND PRIORIES
An Archaeological Perspective

Glyn Coppack

Before the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, there were more than 500 abbeys and priories in England. Yet, although excavation over the last 100 years has greatly increased our understanding of this aspect of medieval society, this is the first general study to cover this extensive specialist research in a single volume. Dr Coppack looks at the archaeological clues that reveal why the many changes, both modest and substantial, occurred in the physical surroundings of monastic life: the development of monastic archaeology; the expansion of the monastic church; the changing role of the cloister; the sophistication of sanitation; the precinct; the conversion of monastic sites to secular use.

With over a hundred maps, plans, reconstructions and photographs as well as a gazetteer of the sites open to the public, this is the complete companion to the Abbeys and Priors of England.

Dr Coppack is an acknowledged authority on monastic archaeology and has directed major research excavations at Fountains Abbey, Mount Grace Priory and Thornholme Priory. He is currently Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments with English Heritage.

0 7134 6309 0 (paperback) 144 pages 115 illustrations
October 1990 £10.95
(Also available 0 7134 6308 2 hardback £19.95)

HADRIAN'S WALL

Stephen Johnson

'A lively book in the new English Heritage series bringing alive the monument that is the wall today, with descriptions of its purpose, its buildings, its garrison and of life on the wall; lots of excellent photos, plans, reconstructions in drawing and watercolour.'

OXBOW BOOKS

Dr Johnson is Academic Editor of English Heritage.

0 7134 5958 1 (paperback) 144 pages 108 illustrations
1989 £10.95
(Also available hardback £19.95)

AVEBURY

Caroline Malone

Avebury is one of Britain's most important neolithic sites, which has been explored ever since the seventeenth century. The stone circle is the largest in the world but the Avebury landscape includes many other important neolithic monuments, and for the first time these are brought together in a single volume: The Great Henge; Windmill Hill; East and West Kennet Long Barrows; The Sanctuary and the Avenue; Silbury Hill.

With over a hundred maps, plans, reconstructions and photographs, as well as a suggested tour of the Avebury sites, this is the complete companion to Avebury – whether you wish to study it before or after a visit, or whether you are simply an armchair archaeologist.

Until recently curator of the Alexander Keiller Museum at Avebury, Caroline Malone now works as an inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage.

0 7134 5960 3 (paperback) 144 pages 120 illustrations
1989 £10.95
(Also available hardback £19.95)

Please add to your events diary:

16th May 1992

A tour of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in Montgomeryshire under the expert guidance of Dr. Alex Gibson of Clwyd and Powys Archaeological Trust. Plus, a visit to Welshpool Museum where relevant finds are exhibited. It is hoped that we will be able to book a coach but we must have numbers as soon as possible.

Those members wishing to attend any of the field trips listed are requested to complete the form below and return it to events secretary Ken Lamb without delay.

A reminder of those events already advertised:

20th June 1992

Stephen Greuter of the Clwyd Archaeological Service will be showing us the 18th Century ironworks at Bersham near Wrexham and we will also visit the museum which is opening next year. Many impressive finds have been made in the past five years and this will be an excellent opportunity to be given a guided tour of a type of site which the Society hasn't visited for some time.

11th July 1992

John Manley who gave us such an interesting visit to Caergwrle Castle in 1989 will be showing us strongholds in the Dee valley which will include the well-known Welsh fortress of Dinas Bran at Llangollen, Owain Glyndwr's Motte near Corwen, where preservation techniques have been used for the first time in archaeology to deal with erosion caused by local sheep, and the nearby Caer Drewyn hill fort whose stone ramparts are partially preserved. There will be a little climbing involved on this excursion, but boots aren't necessary. If you might not feel like doing it all, come along anyway, the scenery is beautiful. This will be a full day trip with a return in good time for your karaoke night.

15th October 1992

Adrian Tindall will be speaking to us about recent archaeological discoveries in Cheshire. He intends to give us the latest news, so details can't be given at this point!

May I again ask members if they would use a coach where at all possible. Apart from the occasions when our guide may wish to address us when in the coach, numbers bring down the cost per head and even enable a small profit to be made if we have a full load; this is becoming important as the cost of providing the programme has risen sharply.

Ken Lamb, Events Secretary.

8th August 1992

Trip to Hilbre Island with help from Wirral Country Park Rangers.
Numbers limited, be sure to book a place early.

FIELD TRIPS 1992

Please use the coach where at all possible but also indicate if you are a car owner and the number of spare seats there would be in your car. We may need to use cars if bookings are not high enough for the hire of a coach.

Name

Address

Telephone daytime evening

	<u>No. of places</u>	<u>Seats on coach</u>	<u>Car owner</u>	<u>Offer lifts</u>
16.5.92 MONTGOMERYSHIRE
20.6.92 BERSHAM
11.7.92 DEE VALLEY
8.8.92 HILBRE

Return to Ken Lamb, 20 Osborne Road, Formby. L37 6AR

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MERSEYSIDE

JOURNAL OF THE MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 7 (1986-7)

The Archaeology of Merseyside is the first publication to summarise the archaeology of Merseyside in its regional context. This volume presents the results of ten years' intensive research and fieldwork in what had been one of England's least studied areas and will form an important contribution to our understanding of the archaeology of the North West of England. The seven articles were originally presented as papers at a seminar organised by the Merseyside Archaeological Society in March 1986 to review progress since the founding of the Society in 1976. These papers, by specialists who have been closely involved in the subjects, have been revised to include recent developments and discoveries.

The Archaeology of Merseyside is the latest journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society. Volumes 2 to 6 of the *Journal* are still available. For details write to the Publications Secretary at the address below.

Contents

■ Introduction	<i>Ian Longworth</i>
■ Environmental Archaeology	<i>J.B. Innes and P.R. Tomlinson</i>
■ The Prehistory of Merseyside	<i>R.W. Cowell</i>
■ Merseyside in the Roman Period	<i>R.A. Philpott</i>
■ Dark Age Merseyside	<i>D.M. O'Hanlon</i>
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I would like to receive details of membership of the Society

Please return to: Mrs C. Longworth, MAS Publications Secretary, Antiquities Section, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN. Tel: 051 207 0001.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: September 1993 (3/1993)

Lecture Programme 1993/94.

- 21 October The Iron Age in Shropshire and the West Midlands.
Mike Stokes, Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury.
- 18 November The Stonehenge Bluestones. Man or ice?
Olwen Williams-Thorpe.
- December Christmas party.
To be arranged.
- 20 January The development of the castle in Medieval England and Wales.
Norman Redhead, Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit.
- 17 February Research on the diet of early hominids.
Chris Wood, University of Liverpool.
- 17 March Conservation in archaeology.
Julie Vint, Northwich Museum.
- 21 April AGM
Followed by a lecture on the Archaeology of Hale, Dave Roberts, MAS

All lectures (except the Christmas meeting) are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30. Non-members are welcome on payment of £1 admission fee.

Note from the Newsletter Editor

I hope you all had a most enjoyable summer, I certainly did. With the onset of the autumn months most people will be looking for things to do during the evenings. Consequently, the emphasis of this Newsletter is to let you know what is going on in Archaeology over the next 6 months or so. You will find enclosed full details of the Society's lecture programme for the 1993/94 season, both in the text of the Newsletter and in the form of a poster. The aim of the poster is to advertise the Society so if you have a friendly local library etc. ask them if they would be willing to put it on the notice board so people find out about us. You will also find details of evening and weekend classes for 1993/94 enclosed. Finally, one of the prime aims of the Newsletter is to let members know what is currently happening on the archaeological scene within Merseyside. This time very little has been included. In future, I would like to see more News of this nature. Afterall, it is what we are all interested in. If you are engaged in a project or have visited an archaeological site which you feel would be of interest to others, let me have a brief report. You don't have to write pages. The deadline for inclusion in

the next Newsletter will be 15 November, so start writing **NOW**..... Contributions to and further information from **Dave Roberts Tel: 051 428 5115**.

Summer Field Trip Programme

The 1993 programme got off to a good start in May with a visit in lovely weather to the attractive, strategic, Welsh border town of Shrewsbury. Our guide and local expert, Mike Stokes, showed us some of the most interesting parts of the town, setting them within the development of the settlement. Places visited included the Castle, Shrewsbury Abbey (where Brother Cadfael is doing nicely) and Rowley's House Museum (located in 16th and 17th century buildings). Mike will be giving a more detailed lecture to the Society on the subject of Rowley's House on 21 October.

In June we headed north to Lancaster, another town with a long history, serving as a protection against invading armies and raiders. This time from Scotland. Again we had good weather and a first rate guide. Rachel Newman took us round the Priory Church, Roman Bath House and Fort. Following an excellent pub lunch we visited the Lancaster Brewery (appropriately), the site of Medieval and Roman excavations and concluded our afternoon in the town with a tour of its historic waterfront. We then travelled a few miles to the east to see the motte and churchyard cross at Halton.

July saw us heading north again, this time to Cumbria, in the company of Percival Turnbull. Our destination was the medieval Castle at Egremont. We were very fortunate to have a guide with a detailed knowledge of the site as the Castle is quite small yet it displays a number of puzzling features. We also visited the picturesque village of Gosforth with its ancient church and splendid Norse/Christian cross.

The final outing of the year took place in August with a tour round the Bronze Age Copper Mines on Great Orme Head. The system is one of the most extensive in the world. Frank Jowett, the resident archaeologist, described the finds to date and potential work for the future. There have been a number of recent articles in the national press regarding the international importance of this particular site.

After such an enjoyable summer programme, it is a shame to finish with a cautionary note. Although, by and large, the Society's field trips are well attended, we incurred an overall loss this summer. The increase in the cost of transport hire makes it more difficult for us to offer a day out to our members at a reasonable price. There are very good reasons for hiring a vehicle rather than relying on members to provide their own transport but we may have to re-assess the position next year. In anticipation of this, details of the field trip programme for 1994, to Furness, York and Wroxeter, will be issued early asking for provisional numbers.

Ken Lamb - Events Secretary

National Archaeology Day, 4 September 1993

Following the experience of previous successful days organised by the Society, it was agreed that this year we should arrange our activities at Birkenhead Priory. Long-standing members of the Society will recall our involvement in the recording of graveyard memorials in 1977 (See Journal 1 - out of print, I'm afraid). Since then, the Museum has been opened in the undercroft, a new roof has been put on the North Range and you can now buy refreshments. But, although the Priory is a rare survival from the medieval period in Merseyside, we still do not fully understand its archaeology and are not able to explain its enigmatic features satisfactorily to the public.

Over the last three years or so, there has been a considerable amount of new archaeological work. University undergraduates and adult students have recorded the West Range during a training week in 1992. And a detailed study has been made of the outer walls of the North Range. This work has demonstrated the complexities of the buildings and has suggested that they have been altered on several occasions. There have also been some minor excavations during building work on the North Range; it seems likely that fragments of earlier structures still survive underground (see MAS Newsletter 92/2). By holding National Archaeology Day at the Priory we felt that we could involve the public in trying to unravel some its mysteries and, at the same time, show how archaeologists gather and try to interpret the evidence. And, all this, without any suggestion that we need to dig holes to be called archaeologists.

A large number of people offered to help organise activities and participate on the day. These included not only Society members and Birkenhead Priory staff, but Liverpool Museums' staff, graduates and post-graduate students and members of University staff - a marvellous response, particularly as some spent a considerable amount of time at the Priory preparing their projects. Our special thanks go to all - too numerous to mention individually, but everyone had a part to play, and played it admirably. Thanks also to Nationwide Building Society for donating pens and balloons and to the School of Archaeology, Classics and Oriental Studies for financial support.

We held a briefing meeting at the Priory a week before the event - a lovely sunny day, so we kept our fingers firmly crossed that the sun would shine on the day and that we should be able to cope with the hoards pouring into the Priory.

So what did we organise? Visitors were given a booklet in which they were introduced to the Priory and led through a series of projects which showed how to look for different sorts of evidence about how the Priory has been used over the centuries. They were guided through different types of recording - how to look at buildings and architectural details and make a useful record of where different features might be found. They looked for dates and masons' marks, for carvings on medieval grave slabs and for pottery floor tiles. They could measure and draw the buildings, sort pottery, stick it together and draw it. They recorded grave memorials. They used a time-line to see how all the evidence they were gathering fitted into the history of the Priory - and into other historical events. We had publications for sale and information leaflets about the Society and archaeology courses which people might join. We even had some English Heritage video films to show that what we were doing could be applied to other sites. And, last but not least, we had lots of photographs taken of all the activities - no prizes for guessing how you might be entertained at the Christmas Party!

So how many people came? About 110 people, including 22 helpers from the Society, University and Liverpool Museum. Of the visitors, many spent a considerable amount of time doing particular activities. Particularly interesting were the grave memorial rubbings which were hung on the wall for all to see and taken home by their creators at the end of the day. The time-line filled up. Time after time, the building blocks were built up and demolished, and one or two people made good plans of the West Range. And over 279 masons' marks were noted. Some of the pottery was pieced together most satisfactorily - a brown teapot in lots of tiny fragments proved to be an absorbing challenge, successfully mastered!

How many new members did we get? Lots of information was handed out and we shall wait to see how many people decide to join the Society.

Did the sun shine? No, perversely it did not. But, although the day was rather dull and not very warm, there was no problem dealing with the outdoor activities.

Did we enjoy ourselves? I believe we all did, and that we got as much from running the various activities as the visitors did from taking part. But, some feed-back and advice on how we might improve next time would be

extremely helpful. It was particularly noticeable that most people were very happy to do all the practical work but had a marked reluctance to deal with the detail of recording and analysis. Perhaps it was too much like schoolwork!

Will we do it again? Why not? The Priory has plenty to offer, there is space to cope with different aspects of our work and, if wet, we could have managed most of what we wanted to do under cover. It has been suggested that a venue north of the river should be considered next year - if anyone knows of a place with facilities similar to those at the Priory, please let me know.

Thank you all - and for those who were not able to come, we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting of the Society.

Jen Lewis
29 September 1993

26 February 1994 Archaeology on Merseyside 1986-94.

Those of you who received the last newsletter will recall that it is the Society's intention to hold a Day School on developments in archaeology in Merseyside during the last 8 years. Since the last Day School, in 1986, an awful lot has been achieved, some of the credit being due to those who have worked in the volunteer sector. Consequently, we need/want/welcome short reports from any of our members. The only stipulation that we make is that they have a properly thought out research objective ie "we have a problem which had to be solved, this is how we set about it and here are the results". The problem, of course, could be that an archaeological response to development of some kind was needed and that an academic research framework was not the primary reason for the work. Survey and fieldwork of all sorts - or documentary work if it sheds light on the archaeology of the region - is acceptable. However, we are not concerned just with field reports. For example, if anyone has achieved a break-through in public relations/education/increased awareness of what we do, this would be a valid and useful piece of work from which we might all learn. Furthermore, if you have such a contribution and do not wish to make the presentation in person please don't let that put you off. Potential contributors to contact Jen Lewis, SACOS, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L60 3BX.

Field Reports

Hale

The last Newsletter reported the discovery and initial investigation of earthworks within the precincts of Mill Wood in Hale. Further investigation proved that the 'plough marks' reported are more extensive than first assumed. Work during the summer has been hampered by 3m high bracken which has covered the area. It is hoped to resume this work during the winter. A survey during the early summer brought to light previously unreported landscape features. Their importance has still to be assessed. A close look at aerial photographs held by the Environmental Planning Office in Chester has also been rewarding. Visits to Chester and Lancashire Records Offices during August brought to light data relevant to the reconstruction of the early post-medieval landscape of Hale which is now beginning to make some sense. A further visit to Preston later this month should provide more data. I am now beginning to tackle the medieval documents, of which there are quite a good collection in Preston. Anyone who has undertaken such an exercise will be aware of the difficulties which such papers present, both in their transcription and subsequent interpretation. I would be grateful for any

assistance that could be offered in translating the documents. Many of them are quite short and I can provide good (or as good as they get) photocopies to anyone who is interested. The winter months should prove most rewarding. Any offers of assistance in documentary research or field work later in the year to **Dave Roberts** please. Tel 051-428-5115.

Why can't we dig more holes?

I wonder how many members feel that the Society does not provide enough fieldwork activities. Perhaps some of you believe that we should get involved in excavations and that an Archaeological Society isn't worth the name unless it does so. But nothing could be further from the truth. In recent years, archaeologists have moved into many other areas of research which allow us to decide whether excavation is a valid way of answering specific questions.

The site evaluation process, by which an archaeologist goes through an analysis of various types of field evidence, is now a very important part of deciding whether a hole should be dug, where it should be dug and whether it is likely to tell us anything new. Whilst aerial photography and geophysical survey require access to particular equipment and resources, field walking, field survey and documentary research need little more than an understanding of how to set about the work and record the evidence in a useful way. In the same way, if you learn to look at historic buildings, to record changes in their masonry or brickwork, where the doors and windows are, and whether they have been altered, you can make decisions about their importance. You can also suggest where below-ground evidence might survive and if such a building is to be repaired or demolished and its site used for redevelopment, then you would be in an excellent position to argue that excavation should take place.

All this information can be brought together - everyone(?) has heard of the Sites and Monuments Record at Liverpool Museum - so, if an excavation is considered necessary, the proper financial resources can be sought both for the digging and, just as importantly and expensively, for the post-excavation and publication.

Even a small excavation of a few days can generate vast numbers of objects all of which have to be washed, marked, sorted, analysed and drawn. And the paperwork can be phenomenal - context records, photographs, site plans and sections all have to be processed and brought to a standard suitable for long-term storage in an archive. In fact, there is often so much work to be done after excavation that one wonders how one ever has time to do any fieldwork at all.

Volunteers can help with much of this sort of work, whether in the field or 'behind the scenes'. Often it is excruciatingly dull! But in the gathering of the evidence, from whatever source, occasionally, and very occasionally, it is wonderfully exciting. As the evidence comes together, the realisation that you have made an important discovery makes up for all the time spent getting wet, cold and uncomfortable, poring over indecipherable documents or bored rigid marking finds.

During the Autumn Term, the Centre for Continuing Education is collaborating with the Society in a short course to introduce people to this sort of 'Behind the Scenes' work. How to study aerial photographs and documents, sort through and analyse material gathered during fieldwork - and make judgements about its archaeological value will be covered. The course will be very practical and everyone will be expected to take part - if you join us, perhaps you will be in at the start of an important new discovery!

Jen Lewis

29 September 1993

Courses for part-time students at the University of Liverpool in 1993/94

Archaeology and Classical Languages

Liverpool

Behind the Scenes in Archaeology (LSU). See above. (in collaboration with Merseyside Archaeological Society)	Dr RA Philpott & Dr JM Lewis; 6 meetings (fortnightly) from Monday 4 Oct at 7.30 pm
The Splendour of Ancient Egypt (LSU 096)	DA Lowle; 20 meetings from Tuesday 5 Oct at 2.00 pm
Beginners' Latin (LSU230)	JH Harrop; 26 meetings from Tuesday 5 Oct at 7.00 pm
The Culture of Ancient Egypt (LSU 803)	DA Lowle; 20 meetings from Wednesday 6 Oct at 7.30 pm
Introduction to Field Archaeology (LSU 095)	Dr JM Lewis; 20 meetings from Wednesday 6 Oct at 10.00 am
Classical Greek Year 2 (LSU 119)	Mrs N Fox; 20 meetings from Thursday 7 Oct at 7.00 pm
Latin for Local History (LMU 048)	PHW Booth & JH Harrop; 9 meetings from Saturday 9 Oct at 9.30 am
Introduction to Prehistory (LSU) (in collaboration with Merseyside Archaeological Society)	R Cowell; 8 meetings (fortnightly) from January
Introduction to Archaeobotany (LSU 218)	Ms P Tomlinson; 10 meetings from Monday 18 April at 7.00 pm

Chester

Development of the Cheshire Landscape (CHE 803)	SR Williams; 10 meetings from Monday 4 Oct at 2.00 pm
Celtic Religion in Archaeology and Folklore (CHE 804)	SR Williams; 10 meetings from Monday 10 Jan at 2.00 pm
Roman Britain and the Roman Army (CHE 004)	DF Petch; 20 meetings from Tuesday 5 Oct at 7.30 pm
Roman Britain in the Roman Empire (CHE 017)	Dr P Carrington; 20 meetings from Wednesday 6 Oct at 7.00 pm

Frodsham

Castles & Moated Houses: The Archaeology of the Countryside (FRM 803)	SR Williams; 20 meetings from Wednesday 6 Oct at 2.00 pm
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Melling

Finding out more about Melling (MEL 001)	Mrs AP Coney & Dr JM Lewis; 20 meetings from Tuesday 5 Oct at 7.30 pm
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Ormskirk

Death & the Ancient Egyptians (RMK 803)	D Lowle; 20 meetings from Tuesday 5 Oct at 7.30 pm
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Wallasey

The Civilisation of Ancient Egypt (WAL 803)	Dr D Downes; 20 meetings from Monday 4 Oct at 10.30 am
Teaching Excavation	Summer 1994; further information April 1994

Day Schools

Liverpool

Flint, Fire & Pyrotechnology (LMU 044)	Professor EA Slater, Dr JAJ Gowlett and Mr J Lord; 30 Oct
The Bible & Archaeology (LMU 047)	Professor A Millard, Professor K Kitchen & Dr K Prag; 27 Nov

Recording your Enterprise: problems of management (LMU 070)

MG Cook & other speakers; January 1994

Archaeology in Merseyside 1986-1994 (LMU 045)

Dr JM Lewis & other speakers; 26 February 1994

Current Archaeological work in Egypt (LMU 046)

Dr S Snape & other speakers; 21 May 1994

From Field to Laboratory; new scientific approaches in Archaeological investigation (LMU 071)

Specialist speakers; Date to be confirmed

Chester

Barbarians & the Roman Army (CHE 011)

Dr R White & other speakers; Spring 1994

Isle of Man

Gods & Pharaohs in Ancient Egypt

Dr Penny Wilson; weekend course, November 1993

Residential Courses & Study Tours

Roman Scotland (RES 005)

DF Petch; 1 week, April 1994

Buildings, Landscape & Society in Medieval Yorkshire (RES 002)

PHW Booth & Dr JM Lewis; 1 week, Summer 1994

Thebes of the Pharaohs (BRM 001)

Dr B Watterson; 17-19 December 1993 at Burton Manor

Overseas Study Tours

Roman Provence (RST 001)

CJ Baddeley & Dr RH White; 2 weeks, May 1994

The Romans on the Rhine (RST 008)
(in collaboration with Moswin Tours)

CJ Baddeley and Dr RH White; 8 days, September 1994

Award-Bearing Courses

Diploma in Landscape Interpretation year 1

Dr D Atkinson, Dr PJ Davey, Dr JM Lewis & Dr RC Wright

For further information about any of these courses please contact the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 3BX (051-794-6900)

Liverpool

'The Face of Tutankhamun' an illustrated lecture and book signing by Professor Christopher Frayling on Saturday 23 Oct at Trueman Street Lecture Theatre, John Moore's University of Liverpool at 2pm and 6pm. Tickets and details from Liverpool Parish Office, Atlantic Tower Hotel, Chapel Street 10 am - 2 pm or Rushworth & Draper Ltd in Whitechapel.

Further Afield.....

Carlisle

Wetland Archaeology in North West England
NW Wetlands Survey 4th Annual Conference

Various Speakers; Saturday 13 Nov at 10.00 am

Further details from The Secretary, LUAU, Storey Institute, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TH (0524 848666 Ext 7529)

Preston

Archaeology and the Green Movement (PRE 308)

Staff of the Lancaster Archaeological Unit; Saturday 2 Oct at 10.00 am

Further details from The Open Studies Office, Lancaster University, The Storey Institute, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TH (0524 849494)

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA)

The CBA exists to promote the study and safeguarding of Britain's historic environment, to provide a forum for archaeological opinion, and to improve public knowledge of Britain's past.

The Council consists of some 360 local, regional and national bodies: societies, museums, universities, national and local government services, archaeological units and trusts, and other conservational bodies with mutual interests. The Council's aims are informed by the regional and national expertise of its members, and underpinned by recognition of the developed structure of archaeology in Britain.

The CBA unites three kinds of human resources: membership, specialist committees and a small professional staff which combine to carry out the Council's work in the fields of Research, Education, Conservation, Information and Publication.

CBA reports helped to lay foundations for urban archaeology in Britain and church archaeology in England. The Council has campaigned for the better protection of historic landscapes, World Heritage sites and the underwater heritage. It regularly appears at public inquiries and is active in defence of threatened buildings of all kinds.

The Council has also successfully campaigned for recognition of archaeology in the National Curriculum, prepared syllabuses, produced resource materials for school use, answers inquiries from pupils, students and teachers and publishes information about job prospects and university courses.

British Archaeological News provides news and comment on topics of general concern, and explains how volunteers can take part in excavations, courses and conferences.

Archaeology North-West 1993 is the reports meeting of CBA North-West and takes place on Saturday 6 November 1993 10 a.m to 4 p.m. at Smithill's Hall near Bolton.

Programme:

Tim Strickland, Gifford and Partners - Excavations at Wilderspool

Ron Cowell, Merseyside Museums - Prehistoric Footprints on Merseyside

Mary Higham - In unexpected places: relict landscapes

Mike Nevell, GMAU - Landscape Survey in an urban environment: the Tameside experience

Pat Faulkner, STAG - Timperley Old Hall: Excavation of a medieval moated site

Mike Johnson, West Lancashire Archaeological Society - The Manor House, Upholland

Adrian Tindell, Cheshire County Archaeologist - Recent work in Cheshire

There will also be a tour of Smithills Hall and other activities.

Further details and enrollment information from Audrey Coney, CBA North-West, 188, Prescot Road, Aughton, Nr. Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 5AG.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: January 1994 (1/1994)

Subscriptions for 1994

Subscriptions for 1994 are due in January and a membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Lecture and Field Trip Programme 1993/94.

Lectures:

- 17 February Research on the diet of early hominids.
Chris Wood, University of Liverpool.
- 17 March Conservation in archaeology.
Jim France, Liverpool Museum. (please note change of Speaker)
- 21 April AGM
Followed by a lecture on the Archaeology of Hale, Dave Roberts,
MAS.

All lectures are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30. Non-members are welcome on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trips:

- 14 May Medieval Landscape of Furness, Cumbria.
Bill Rollinson
- 18 June Trip to York.
Staff of the archaeological Resource Centre
- 16 July Trip to Wroxeter.
Roger White

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - FIELD TRIPS 1994

Please delete any trips you are not interested in:

	Transport Offered (Y/N)	No. of Persons	No. of free seats
Medieval Landscapes of Furness			
York			
Wroxeter			
Comments/Ideas for future trips			
.....			
.....			
.....			
.....			

Name:.....
Address:.....
.....
Phone Number:.....

Please return to: Ken Lamb, 20 Osborne Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 6AR

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
1994 Subscription Form

To: Miss P. E. Taylor, 175 Muirhead Avenue, West Derby, Liverpool L13 OAX

I enclose my subscription for 1994 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone.....

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Ordinary : £8.00 Junior: £2.00 Family : £10.00
Institutional : £12.00 OAP, UB40 etc:£5.00

I am interested in the following activities (please tick):

Surveying and Recording Publications Excavation
Field Walking Field Visits Drawing Other



Merseyside Archaeological Society

PRICE LIST

Merseyside Archaeological Society Journals:

Volume 2	£1.00
Volume 3	£1.00
Volume 4	£2.50
Volume 5	£2.50
Volume 6	£2.50
Volume 7	£7.95
Volume 8	£9.95

Volumes 2 - 8 inclusive £20.00

The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1727 50p

*The Calderstones - a prehistoric tomb
in Liverpool* 50p

From Volume 2:

Chitty, G.S. *Wirral Rural Fringes Survey* 30p

From Volume 3:

Nicholson, S.M. *Farming at Speke Hall 1066-1795* 50p

Cheques should be made payable to 'Merseyside Archaeological Society'. Please include £1.40 per volume for post and packing.

Please forward your order to:

Mrs. C. Longworth, MAS Publications Secretary, Antiquities
Department, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3
8EN. Tel. 051 207 0001.

January 1994

1994 Annual General Meeting.

The 1994 AGM is scheduled for 21 April and as usual we are looking for new members for the Committee. If you would be willing to give up a small amount of your time to help (no previous experience necessary), please contact the Chairman.

Courses:

Courses in Liverpool

Introduction to Prehistory:

Mr. Ron Cowell. 8 fortnightly meetings including field trips. Monday 10 January 7.30-9.00. No 19 Abercromby Square, University of Liverpool.

Day Schools

Looking Back: Archaeology in Merseyside 1986-94.

Various Speakers.

Saturday 26 February. Continuing Education Centre, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3. Further details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In collaboration with Merseyside Archaeological Society and North West Archaeological Trust.

Schools, Scribes and Scribbles: The Trials and Tribulations of Teaching and Learning in the Ancient World.

Mr. Knut Heim and guest lecturer.

Saturday 5 March. Dept. of Archaeology, 14 Abercromby Square, Liverpool 3.

Archaeology and Building Records: Managing the Records of Enterprise.

Mr M.G. Cook and others.

Thursday 10 March. Continuing Education Centre, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3.

Dark Age Metal Working: Celt or Saxon?

Dr. R.H. White, Miss D.M. O'Hanlon and Mrs F. Philpott

Friday 18 March. Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool 3.

Nautical Archaeology.

Dr. D.J. Gibbons and specialist speakers.

Saturday 7 May. Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock.

Current Archaeological Work in Egypt.

Dr. S. Snape.

Saturday 21 May. Continuing Education Centre, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3.

Teaching Excavation.

Dr. P. J. Davey and Dr. J. M. Lewis.

Mon-Fri June/July. Non-residential week. Dates and venue to be announced.

Note from the Events Secretary.

Lectures.

Please note that Julie Vint's lecture on conservation on 17 March has been cancelled and replaced by one on the same subject by Jim France, Head of Conservation Services at Liverpool Museum. Members may have seen progress being made on the new conservation centre and this will give us an opportunity to learn about the state-of-the-art facilities it will offer.

Field Trips.

As you are aware from the last Newsletter, this Society, like many others is experiencing problems in offering its members a good day out at a reasonable cost. With the spiralling costs of transport hire this is becoming more difficult and we can not afford to incur huge losses on our field trips. The MAS Committee feel that there are a number of benefits in continuing to use a coach/bus as we have over the last few years and we shall endeavour to do this where there is sufficient interest in a trip. Where there are not enough people to justify hiring a coach, the best alternative is to use members cars which is more difficult to organise but more practical than public transport. In order to assist me I would be grateful if you would complete and return the enclosed slip, indicating;

- a) which trips you are interested in;
- b) the number of people in your party;
- c) if you can provide transport the number of spare seats available.

Furthermore, if you have any ideas for future trips please contact me.

Ken Lamb.

Hon. Editor's Report

The next Journal is due out later this year and is packed with a variety of articles and short notes covering a wide span of subjects from mesolithic flints to medieval manuscripts. These are written by professional, student and amateur archaeologists. The editorial committee is very keen to encourage members of the society to contribute to the Journal, particularly as the backlog of work waiting to be published is now rather small. The editor will be pleased to accept short notes as well as longer articles. Short notes do not necessarily have to contain original research but perhaps some new ideas or interpretations. In the next volume we will initiate a publications review section for recent archaeological books or articles - concerning Merseyside or archaeology in general.

For further details about publications or if you would like to discuss your ideas, please ring Philippa on 051 794 2537 (daytime) or write to her: c/o Dept. of Archaeology, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147 Liverpool L69 3BX. A copy of '*Notes for Contributors*' is available on request.

Formby:

Formby Footprints.

Gordon Roberts and others. Will probably include a trip to the Formby foreshore!
Saturday 21 May. Further information from Dept. of Continuing Education.

Further afield.

Prehistoric Monuments in Wessex

Dr. J. Lewis

25-27 March. Residential course based in Marlborough, Wiltshire.

Roman Scotland.

Mr D. Petch

25-29 April. Residential Course based in St. Andrews.

Prehistoric Anglesey: Horizons and Landscapes.

Mr. R. Williams.

9-11 September. Residential Course based in Beaumaris.

Buildings, Landscapes and society in Medieval Yorkshire.

Mr. P. Booth and Dr. J. Lewis.

1 week. Summer 1994

The Romans on the Rhine.

Mr. C. Baddeley and Dr. R. White.

September. 8 day study tour based in Koln.

Further information (including enrollment and fees) can be obtained from The Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX Tel: 051 794 6900

Other Courses etc.

Cheshire Archaeology Day. Various Speakers.

Saturday 9 April at Northwich Memorial Hall. Contact The Principal Archaeologist, Cheshire County Council, Environmental Planning, Commerce House, Hunter Street, Chester CH1 2QP

Looking Back: Archaeology on Merseyside 1986-94

Since 1986, the occasion of the last day school at which our understanding of the archaeology of the region was considered, work in the region has continued to identify, survey, excavate and record a whole range of new sites. Eight years ago we were starting to find evidence for Prehistoric and Romano-British presence in the area. We were also well aware of medieval sites but documentary searches, site surveys and studies of standing structures can now tell us much more about post-Conquest activity. This Day School brings us up to date and emphasises how different kinds of archaeological approach have added to our knowledge.

St Catherine's Chapel, Lydiate

Long-standing members will recall that one of the Society's early field activities (1979-1980) was the excavation of the floor levels at St Catherine's Chapel, Lydiate to establish the extent of disturbance. A report on this and a study of the masons' marks was published in Journal 6. Just before the excavations, stonemasons from the then Ministry of Works were employed to consolidate the ruins in order to arrest further collapse; intrusive vegetation was removed and loose masonry was collected and stored a short distance from the chapel. Earlier than this, Dorothy O'Hanlon and a group of students had surveyed the site and building - this work being reported in the long out-of-print Journal 1. One might be forgiven for thinking that the chapel was secure from further damage.

Not so. Since 1980 the site has received scant attention and the best attempts to secure its safety from vandalism and new vegetational growth met with little success. In the meantime, the store of loose masonry was pilfered. Some stones 'walked' from the site and others were laid out around the chapel as an ornamental feature. It is to the credit of planning officers of Sefton MBC that, after many years of effort, they succeeded in 1993 in co-ordinating a project to consolidate the masonry, establish a permanent record of the standing structure and to landscape the site (removing once again all the loose masonry) and open this important site to the public. A complex funding package was put in place, with support from English Heritage, Sefton MBC, the Countryside Commission and the Archdiocese of Liverpool; the support of Lydiate Parish Council as long-term guardians of the site was also sought.

A photogrammetric survey was commissioned by English Heritage and, as soon as the really cold weather started in November, the archaeological work of checking this, stone by stone, got under way. It was bitterly cold - and wet. But the scaffolding around the tower was up for no more than four weeks whilst the masons were working - we just had to get up there and get on with it. Our hands froze. Our pencils drew lines where they shouldn't and it was almost impossible to excavate the erasers from our pockets. Our noses turned blue and the camera batteries failed. But the Scotch Piper (see Journal 6) proved a welcome haven for our lunch breaks - oh, for the warmth of a coal fire.

Somewhat to our surprise, we found no masons' marks on the tower, thus confirming the published evidence. With the detailed drawings we are now in a position to examine more closely the observations made by Mr AB D'Arcy (Journal 6) regarding different qualities of stonework and, indeed, the differences in coursing and weathering. He suggested that the building, simple as it is, may have been built in more than one phase. Inconsistencies in the structural evidence support this theory and those which appear around the window openings even suggest that modifications or repairs may have been made; perhaps even the tower was not an original feature. These possibilities provoke further study of a building with a tantalising structural history.

Jen Lewis
31 January 1994

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Jen Lewis
31 January 1994



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: June 1994 (2/1994)

Lecture and Field Trip Programme 1994.

Field Trips:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 18 June | Trip to York.
Staff of the Archaeological Resource Centre |
| 16 July | Trip to Wroxeter.
Roger White |

If you have not already booked and you are interested in going on either of the trips please contact Ken Lamb, 20 Osbourne Road, Formby .

N.B.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 6 July | Evening trip to excavation at Irby. See below. |
|--------|--|

Lecture Programme:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 15 September | Wetlands Archaeology.
Paul Buckland |
| 20 October | Controversial Features in English Medieval Churches and their
Explanation.
Oliver Bott |
| 17 November | Tombs and Ancestors in Madagascar.
Michael Pearson |
| 8 December | Christmas Party.
The Excelsior in Dale Street |

All lectures (except the Christmas meeting) are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Additional Field Trip to Irby.

Excavations at Irby on Wirral undertaken by the Field Archaeology Section at Liverpool Museum since 1987 have produced evidence for a number of structural features which can be dated to the Roman period. This season's excavations will investigate a more extensive area of the site which has already produced one of the larger assemblages of pottery and other finds from a rural Roman-period site in north-west England. Rob Philpott has kindly agreed to show us the results so far on Wednesday 6 July at 7.00 p.m. Meet at Thorstone Drive which is off Mill Hill Road, Irby where parking is available. No advance booking necessary.

Courses etc

Teaching Excavation.

Monday 4 July - Friday 8 July 1994

Director of Excavations: Dr. Robert Philpott, Liverpool Museum

Tutor: Dr Roger White, University of Liverpool

Further details from Centre for Continuing Education, University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 3BX

Prehistoric Archaeology of Persia

Martin Charlesworth.

10 fortnightly meetings October 1994 - March 1995. Further details in the next Newsletter.

National Archaeology Day

It is expected that the Society will be partaking in this event again this year. The venue is likely to be Birkenhead Priory and the date is 11 September. The final details are yet to be resolved but we shall be needing willing volunteers to oversee the activities on offer. In common with last year, no previous experience is necessary. If you feel that you can spare a few hours to prepare activities, assist on the day or man a stall giving general information about our own Society please get in touch. Any (reasonable) ideas for activities are welcome. Anyone with experience of dealing with groups of children would be particularly welcome. Further information can be obtained from Dave Roberts after 1 July on 051-428-5115.

Chester Civil War Weekend.

This will take place on 30-31 July 1994. Volunteers are being sought to help with this event which is one of the biggest 'living history' happenings to be held in this region. If you can spare a minimum of 4 hours on the day phone Karen Snowden on 0244-321616 ext 4014 or Gillian Dunn on ext 4023 or write to them at Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD.

Field Reports:

Irby, Wirral, Mill Hill Road/Thorstone Drive (SJ 253 852)

Excavation directed by Dr R.A. Philpott for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside continued on an Iron-Age and Romano-British rural site. An Iron Age phase of occupation suspected from a quantity of late prehistoric hand-made pottery and two cylindrical loom-weights was confirmed by the discovery of a steatite bead with Plastic Style decoration of the 2nd-1st century BC.

Occupation now extends for at least 100 m east west by 50 m north-south and three main Roman phases of activity have been recognised, dating from at least the mid 2nd to later 4th century.

An entrance has been recognised in the north side of the probable enclosure ditch and the junction of this with a north-south internal dividing ditch has been examined. Evidence for a recut of the north-south ditch was obtained and a palisade identified alongside each of the ditches. The ditches were finally infilled in the early 4th century.

At least eight structures of various phases have been partly excavated, mostly within the probable enclosure. The construction technique varies: three rectilinear buildings have rubble wall foundations including one which appears to form part of an open-sided building at least 23 m long and another with a zig-zag arrangement of post-settings in the top; two further buildings are of beamslot construction, and another with both post-pads and post-holes can now be seen to measure 12.8 m NS. At least two more structures are indicated by stone-packed post-holes.

Apart from pottery, finds include industrial waste, crucible fragments, a second quern fragment, a hexagonal glass bead, a jet or shale bracelet and a copper-alloy pin.

For previous work see *Britannia* xxi (1990), 329 and xxiv (1993), 287.

Tarbock, Ochre Brook (SJ 463 890)

Excavations directed by Mr R.W. Cowell and Dr R.A. Philpott for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside in advance of motorway construction revealed a Romano-British enclosure, of which parts of two rectilinear ditches and an entrance in the western side were examined. The interior contained one building measuring 11.5 by 4.5 m with some post-holes packed with stone and ceramic tile; further post-holes may belong to internal subdivisions. North-east of the main structure was a series of domestic rubbish pits, heavily truncated by later ploughing but in one case containing the base of a pottery vessel. Two further pits contained quantities of *tegulae*, pottery and charcoal, and the fills resemble those of the enclosure ditches. The enclosure ditches contained large quantities of ceramic tile fragments. The site produced four examples of the rare XXth legionary consular dated tile-stamp of the year AD 167 and two others stamped LXXVV. The presence of waste tile and irregular blocks of fired clay suggests the material is derived from an as-yet unlocated

production site possibly in the vicinity. Apart from one 4th-century sherd, occupation is confined to the 2nd-early 3rd century.

Halewood, Brook House Farm (SJ 473 850)

Excavations directed by Mr R.W. Cowell for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside in advance of motorway construction examined part of a double-ditched enclosure discovered by aerial photography in 1991. The main occupation appears to have been Iron Age in date, but a small number of residual Roman sherds, possibly associated with a rectilinear post-built structure, suggest re-occupation in the Roman period. Excellent environmental survival in the enclosure ditches may provide evidence for the environment in the late Iron Age/Roman period.

Medieval Archaeology

Brunt Boggart, Water Lane, Tarbock (SJ 465 881)

Excavations directed by Dr R.A. Philpott for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside in advance of motorway construction examined a medieval rural site located as a dense pottery scatter in fieldwalking. A small quantity of Roman pottery and a dolphin brooch were recovered from the vicinity of a large ditch. There is evidence that the ditch, which may form part of a Roman farmstead enclosure, remained partly open to be re-used in the medieval period as the central of a series of three north-south ditches defining two enclosures each 33 m wide. Each enclosure contained a probable structure defined by irregular rectangular arrangements of post-holes, the western structure 14.0 m by 5.0 m and associated with a probable surviving surface and a dense cluster of medieval pottery fragments, the eastern measuring 7.0 m by 5.0 m. A further post-hole complex, also associated with a dense cluster of finds, overlay the eastern ditch and may be a third building. The silted ditches only contain medieval pottery.

The site produced a useful, if highly fragmented, pottery assemblage provisionally dated from the late 12th to 15th century when the site was abandoned.

Post-Medieval Archaeology

76-88 High Street, Newton-le-Willows (SJ 5895 9856)

Excavations directed by Dr R.A. Philpott for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside in advance of redevelopment in 1992 within the medieval borough of Newton examined the rear of a burgage plot. They revealed two medieval ditches intersecting at 90° and five probably medieval post-holes. The ditch fills included useful groups of local late medieval pottery. Overall soil layers included much residual 14th-17th century pottery suggesting reworking by horticulture of medieval occupation deposits. Early post-medieval features included a post-built structure and boundary lines. A rubbish pit cut by later building contained a group of 17th century

pottery; another early 18th century rubbish pit was located. The street frontage was occupied by a house rebuilt in the late 18th century but cellaring and development had destroyed earlier deposits close to the frontage.

Prescot, Prescot Vicarage (SJ 464 926)

Observations by Lynn Smith of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside during relaying of a 19th century path in the vicarage garden recovered a large group of post-medieval pottery including wasters of brown salt-glazed stoneware and black-glazed earthenware of later 18th century date.

Field Archaeology Section, Liverpool Museum

More news from Lydiate

The archaeological study of St Catherine's Chapel has been completed and the report is in the final stages of preparation. On 1 May there was a short service in the Chapel (which I missed due to failure of the power-steering on my Land Rover whilst I was at Golborne recording yet another building - medieval, timber-framed and masquerading as an 18th-century farmhouse). The Chapel now proudly bears a sign informing the public about its history, bench seats have been installed and the grounds are being planted with bulbs. All the same, between completion of our survey and a visit in April, the Chapel walls have been defaced with new graffiti. It is to be hoped that those responsible for the management of this Scheduled Ancient Monument will find some means of preventing further desecration.

Meanwhile, at Lydiate Hall the site has been cleared of vegetation and the walls are now exposed (see Journal 6 for a plan of the excavated area). The North West Archaeological Trust was commissioned to undertake a ground survey of the whole area and, as a result, we are now aware of two small, square sandstone structures, north and south of the hall and set against the ditch banks. Each had a doorway on the platform side and the north ditch is deeply cut into bedrock. It seems likely that these buildings were 'necessary houses' or loos, probably of 17th-century or later date. We know of such buildings from the documentary records for Halsall Rectory (see Vernacular Buildings on the Lancashire Plain, Report No. 2 published by the North West Archaeological Trust) though the 'necessary houses' at Halsall have been destroyed. At Lydiate Hall, however, lying against the wall of the south structure, there is a block of carved masonry decorated in a similar manner to the stone set into the base of one of the chimney stacks. We can only suspect that these pieces came from another building - the earlier Lydiate Hall? But where was this earlier Hall?

Our survey also produced evidence for the foundations of a rectangular building north of the Hall and, possibly, for another to the south. Their date and function has not yet been determined.

The field immediately to the east of the present Hall has lots of humps and bumps and was surveyed by Ron Cowell some years ago. His survey was inconclusive but suggested that there was a small, rectangular platform and, following a recent spell of wet weather, there was a noticeable area of standing water along the west side of the platform - evidence for a moat? We can now see that other linear depressions in the

field are linked with the ditch which runs along the east side of the present Hall and a complex site is suggested.

Clearly, Lydiate Hall has not yet revealed all its secrets and proposals for the next phase of consolidation of the standing building and its eventual display within the context of Lydiate's Heritage Landscape will require further archaeological input.

Jen Lewis
May 1994

Woodland and Field Survey, Hale

Merseyside Archaeology Society Newsletter 2/93 reported the survey carried out during the winter months of 1993 in Mill Wood in the north-west corner of Hale township on the border with Speke. Further work during the last 3 months has revealed more earthworks similar to those already recorded. It now appears that there is an extensive area of ancient ploughing overlain by features associated with woodland management dated prior to 1837. To the north of this area lies a series of banks and ditches and the remains of an ancient stream bed (a former course of the Ramsbrook, which is a further 50m to the north). It is entirely possible that the largest bank and ditch may be related to a watermill. Field and documentary research continue.

Other woodlands within or near Hale have been investigated. Remains of ancient ploughing associated with banks and ditches similar to the Mill Wood situation have been recorded within Clamley Park Plantation in Hale and Little Boars Wood just over the boundary in Halewood.

Aerial photographs have revealed earthworks within and adjacent to the marshes in Hale. These are to be investigated during the summer.

Dave Roberts



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: September 1994 (3/1994)

Lecture Programme 1994/95.

- 15 September **Wetlands Archaeology.**
Paul Buckland, University of Sheffield
- 20 October **Controversial Features in English Medieval Churches and their
Explanation.**
Oliver Bott
- 17 November **Tombs and Ancestors in Madagascar.**
Michael Pearson, University of Sheffield
- December **Christmas Party.**
To be Arranged
- 19 January **Maritime Archaeology**
David Gibbons, University of Liverpool
- 16 February **Recent Archaeological Work in Lincoln**
Mick Jones
- 16 March **Archaeology in Britain in the 19th Century**
Barry Marsden
- 20 April **AGM followed by Recent Archaeological Work in Egypt**
Steven Snape, University of Liverpool

All lectures (except the Christmas meeting) are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Courses etc.

Liverpool:

Monday 3rd October, 10 fortnightly meetings at 7.30 pm.

The Archaeology of Iran: From the Neolithic Revolution to the Persian Empire.

Lecturer: Mr. Martin Charlesworth.

In collaboration with Merseyside Archaeological Society.

Tuesday 4th October, 20 meetings at 2 pm.

Art and Architecture in Ancient Egypt.

Lecturer: Mr. Donald Lowle.

Wednesday 5th October, 20 meetings (including field visits) at 10 am.

Fieldwork for Archaeologists.

Lecturer: Dr. Jennifer Lewis.

Wednesday 5th October, 20 meetings at 7.30 pm.

Egypt under the Pharaohs.

Lecturer: Mr. Donald Lowle.

Day Schools:

Saturday 15 October.

Schools, Scribes and Scribbles: The Trials and Tribulations of Teaching and Learning in the Ancient World.

Lecturers: Mr. Knut Heim and Others.

Saturday 19 November.

Flintknapping for Archaeologists.

Lecturer: Mr. John Lord.

Saturday 26 November.

The Bible: History and Archaeology.

Lecturer: Professor A.R. Millard.

Thursday 2nd March.

Managing the Records: Archaeological Building Surveys.

Awaiting details.

Saturday 11 March.

Artefacts and Artist among Celt and Saxon.

Lecturers: Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon and Dr. Roger White.

May 1995.

Archaeological Fieldwork in Egypt.

Lecturers: Dr. Steven Snape and Others.

Neston:

Tuesday 4 October, 10 meetings at 10.30 am.
Celtic Religion in Archaeology and Folklore.
Lecturer: Mr. S. Rhys Williams.

Wednesday 5 October, 20 meetings at 2 pm.
Ancient Egypt: The Land and its People.
Lecturer: Mr. Donald Lowle.

Irby:

Summer 1995, for one week.
Archaeological Teaching Excavation.
Dr. Jennifer Lewis and Others.

Wallasey:

Monday 26 September, 20 meetings at 10.30 am.
Egypt in the Ancient World.
Lecturer: Dr. Dorothy Downes.

West Kirby:

Tuesday 10 January, 6 meetings at 7.30 pm.
A Beginner's Guide to Roman Britain.
Lecturer: Dr. D.F. Fetch.

Formby:

Day-school Summer 1995.
Formby Footprints Revisited.
Various Lecturers.

Ormskirk:

Tuesday 4 October, 26 meetings at 7.30 pm.
Daily Life in Ancient Egypt.
Lecturer: Mr. Donald Lowle.

Southport:

Wednesday 5 October, 15 meetings at 7.30 pm.
Environmental Archaeology.
Lecturer: Dr. Brian Barnes.

Chester:

Wednesday 12 October, 6 meetings at 7.30 pm.
A Beginner's Guide to Roman Britain.
Lecturer: Dr. D.F. Petch.

Day Schools:

Saturday 29 October.
Barbarians in the Roman Army.
Lecturers: Dr. Roger White and Others.

Autumn 1994.
Rescue Archaeology in Chester: A History.
To be Arranged.

Spring 1995.
Roman Treasures in the Moselle Valley.
Lecturers: Dr. R. H. White and Dr. C. Baddeley.

Frodsham:

Wednesday 5 October, 20 meetings at 2 pm.
Celtic Religion in Art, Folklore and Archaeology.
Lecturer: Mr. S. Rhys Williams.

Residential Courses:

24-26 March.
Cumbria.
Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Northern England.
Lecturer: Dr. J. Lewis.

Summer 1995.
North Yorkshire.
Medieval Yorkshire: Landscapes in Societies.
Lecturers: Dr. J. Lewis and Mr. P. H. W. Booth.

12-19 August 1995.
Germany.
The Romans in Southern Germany.
Lecturers: Dr. R. H. White and Mr. C. Baddeley.

August 1995.
Germany.
Charlemagne: An Emperor in Germany.
Lecturer: Dr. R.H. White.

Easter 1995.

Italy.

The Archaeology of Sicily.

Lecturer: Dr. D.J. Gibbins.

Enquiries regarding all the above courses can be made to The Department for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: 051 794 6900.

MAS Advertising.

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a poster advertising MAS meetings to be held during 1994/95. If you know of a local library, a public notice board or even a shop window where it could be displayed I would be grateful.

Reports:

Hale:

Some work has been continuing through the summer on pasture lands adjacent to Hale Marsh where an area showing features on aerial photographs has been investigated on the ground. The remains of field divisions or boundaries, some of which appear on the 19th century Tithe map, have been identified. Additional features attributed to the last time the land was ploughed survive within some of the divisions. Banks and ditches, probably relating to the growing of 'withies' or young willow, are evident within this area. Four sandstone blocks, in a cow scrape have recently come to light. Further work will be necessary to determine whether they relate to field clearance or the remains of a structure in-situ.

With the on-set of winter, the immediate plans for Hale include re-visiting the documentary work. In addition, it is expected that the field-walking programme and woodland survey will continue. For further details contact Dave Roberts.

STOP PRESS:

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 1994 at Norton Priory from 12 - 4pm.

This will be celebrated at Norton Priory Museum and Walled Garden, Runcorn and ENTRY IS FREE. Members of the Society will be showing visitors how archaeologists work and answering questions. People will be able to try their hand at various archaeological techniques, including recording and surveying. All are welcome to make a medieval tile, design a shield, draw an illuminated letter or cook oatcakes on an open fire! If you can come along to support us or even better, lend a hand, you will be welcome.

For further details contact Dorothy O'Hanlon on 051 737 3225, Dave Roberts on 051-428-5115 or Amanda Feather at Norton Priory on 0928 569895.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: January 1995 (1/95)

Subscriptions for 1995

Subscriptions for 1995 are due in January and a membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please note the Treasurer's change of name and address. Thank you.

Lecture Programme 1995.

- 16 February Archaeology in Lincoln
 Mick Jones
- 16 March **Change of Lecture**
 Conservation of Archaeological Sites
 Bill Klemperer
- 20 April AGM followed by Recent Archaeological Work in Egypt
 Steven Snape
- 21 September **Mirrors, Magic and Mythology in the Roman World**
 Glenys Lloyd-Morgan
- 19 October Tree Ring Chronology in Britain and Ireland
 Jennifer Hillam
- 16 November **The Palaeolithic in Japan**
 Anthony Sinclair
- December Christmas Party (Date and Venue in a future Newsletter)

All lectures (except the Christmas meeting) are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trips etc Programme Spring/Summer 1995.

- 13 May Visit to Lincoln
Lincoln Archaeological Unit
- 17 June Aspects of Environmental Archaeology
Visit escorted by Lesley Harrison at Grosvenor Museum, Chester
- 8 July Ancient Anglesey.
Trip to Anglesey escorted by Dorothy O'Hanlon
- 9 September National Archaeology Day At Norton Priory
Details in the next Newsletter

At this stage of the year it is the intention to use a coach on the trips to Anglesey and Lincoln. The costs will not be known until we have had the opportunity to obtain quotes but we do not expect it to be much more than last year. A rough estimate, based on last years attendance, will be £7 for adults with a reduced rate for children. However, the more people wishing to come, the cheaper it will be. We do not seek to make any profit on our field trips but with limited funds available we cannot afford to make big subsidies towards them either. For the Chester trip, travel will probably be by car but details will be sent with the next Newsletter. To enable us to organise these events we would be grateful if you would complete and return the enclosed booking sheet. **Please don't send any money NOW.**

Dates for your Diaries:

Day Schools:

Liverpool:

Thursday 2nd March.

Managing the Records: Archaeological Building Surveys.

Awaiting details.

Saturday 11 March.

Artefacts and Artist among Celt and Saxon.

Lecturers: Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon and Dr. Roger White.

May 1995.

Archaeological Fieldwork in Egypt.

Lecturers: Dr. Steven Snape and Others.

Formby:

Summer 1995.

Formby Footprints Revisited.

Various Lecturers.

Residential Courses further afield:

24-26 March.

Cumbria.

Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Northern England.

Lecturer: Dr. J. Lewis.

Summer 1995.

North Yorkshire.

Medieval Yorkshire: Landscapes in Societies.

Lecturers: Dr. J. Lewis and Mr. P. H. W. Booth.

12-19 August 1995.

Germany.

The Romans in Southern Germany.

Lecturers: Dr. R. H. White and Mr. C. Baddeley.

August 1995.

Germany.

Charlemagne: An Emperor in Germany.

Lecturer: Dr. R.H. White.

Easter 1995.

Italy.

The Archaeology of Sicily.

Lecturer: Dr. D.J. Gibbins.

Teaching Excavation at Irby:

Summer 1995, for one week.

Archaeological Teaching Excavation.

Dr. Jennifer Lewis and Others.

Enquiries regarding all the above courses can be made to The Department for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: 051 794 6900.

National Archaeology Day 1994:

National Archaeology Day was held on Saturday 10 September at Norton Priory. Society members, in conjunction with Norton Priory staff put on a number of events/demonstrations of an archaeological nature giving visitors hands-on experience. Such diverse activities as medieval cooking techniques, drawing, wall construction and tile making were demonstrated. A replica English Civil War matchlock musket was also available for people to inspect at close quarters. During the course of the day over two hundred people visited the Priory which was open free of charge.

Although the event was essentially organised with children in mind, to promote archaeology amongst the younger generation, it was gratifying to see the interest and enthusiasm of parents. The Society gained a number of new members to its ranks. Much of this was due to the energy of the volunteers who supervised the various activities and the Committee extend their warm thanks to all involved.

The day also gave visitors and helpers the opportunity to look round the Priory. I was surprised at the amount there is to see there now and it is certainly worth a few hours of anybody's time, if you haven't been over the last few years or at all. The walled garden was particularly impressive in September. It is for these reasons and the splendid educational facilities on offer that the Society has decided to hold National Archaeology Day 1995 at the same venue. Details of this year's programme will be included in a future Newsletter but if you would like to participate in this very worthwhile event, keep 9 September 1995 free in your diary.

Merseyside Archaeological Society 18th Birthday Celebrations:

During 1994 the Society 'came of age' and duly celebrated its 18th birthday at Berties Wine Bar in Bold Street on Saturday 3 December. It was a fitting day to choose as it was almost eighteen years to the day that the Society's inaugural meeting took place at the Royal Institution, Colquitt Street.

Members who attended the party heard a brief history of the MAS and the way that it has influenced and promoted archaeology on Merseyside during the last two decades. A collection of photographs and papers documenting the milestones in the Society's history were also on display. This has become a permanent archive which can be used at future events or for publicity purposes. If anyone has any photographs of field trips, excavations etc particularly from the 1970's and early 1980's depicting society activities and would be willing to contribute copies to this archive we would be interested in seeing them. The originals will of course be returned.

The event attracted over 30 people and most stayed for two or three hours, taking the opportunity to have lunch and a few drinks. It was a pleasure to see people who do not often get the opportunity to attend meetings but have loyally kept in touch over the years. The function also gave members the opportunity to socialise which is often not possible at the monthly meetings, due to the limited time available. Thanks to all involved in organising this event.

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - FIELD TRIPS 1995

Please indicate the trips you are interested in:

LINCOLN: 13 May

No. of adults No. of children

CHESTER: 17 June

No. of adults No. of children

ANGLESEY: 8 July

No. of adults No. of children

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone Number:.....

Please return to: Ken Lamb, 20 Osborne Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 6AR

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
1995 Subscription Form

To: Mrs P. E. Roberts, 16 Ranelagh Drive South, Garston, Liverpool L19 9DR

I enclose my subscription for 1995 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Ordinary : £8.00 Junior: £2.00 Family : £10.00
Institutional : £12.00 OAP, UB40 etc:£5.00

I am interested in the following activities (please tick):

Surveying and Recording Publications Excavation
Field Walking Field Visits Drawing Other
Documentary Research



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: May 1995 (2/95)

Lecture Programme 1995.

- 21 September Mirrors, Magic and Mythology in the Roman World
Glenys Lloyd-Morgan
- 19 October Tree Ring Chronology in Britain and Ireland
Jennifer Hillam
- 16 November The Palaeolithic in Japan
Anthony Sinclair
- December Christmas Party (Date and Venue in a future Newsletter)

All lectures (except the Christmas meeting) are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trips etc Programme Spring/Summer 1995.

- 17 June Aspects of Environmental Archaeology
Visit escorted by Lesley Harrison at Grosvenor Museum, Chester
- 8 July Ancient Anglesey.
Trip to Anglesey escorted by Dorothy O'Hanlon
- 5 August **Formby Footprints Revisited. Extra trip by popular demand.
Details below.**
- September National Archaeology Day At Norton Priory
Details below

Important information regarding all the above events is included below.

Field Trips.

There has been a good response to the 1995 field trip programme. Further details of the individual events are given below.

Chester.

You will need to make your own way to Chester and meet at the Grosvenor Museum at 10.30 am. where we will be met by Lesley Harrison.

Anglesey.

The interest in this trip has been overwhelming and the coach that has been booked is now full. However, a number of people who have expressed an interest by returning the tear-off slip in the last Newsletter have not yet paid. If you are one of these people contact Ken Lamb urgently to make payment. The cost is £7 per adult and £2 per child. If payment is not received by 15 June your place will be offered to someone on the waiting list. Those who have paid meet at Mann Island, Pier Head at 9.15 a.m. There will also be a pick-up outside Hamilton Square Station at approximately 9.30 a.m. Please let Ken know where you will be boarding the coach to avoid being left behind.

Formby Footprints:

Those of you who attended the day-school at Formby last year will be aware of the animal (and human) footprints that have been preserved in mud deposits on Formby beach. Gordon Roberts has been studying these deposits for some years now and has agreed to give the Society an update of his work (to include a visit to the Formby shore, where hopefully conditions will be suitable so we can see the evidence for ourselves). Meet at Hightown Station at 11 a.m.

Any queries to: Ken Lamb, 20 Osborne Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 6AR.
Tel:017048 71802

National Archaeology Day 9/10 September 1995

In common with 1994, National Archaeology day(s) will be held at Norton Priory as a joint venture between the MAS and Norton Priory Museum. Considering the short notice we had last year to organise the event it was great credit to all those involved that it was so successful, over 200 members of the public coming along to see what was on offer.

Last year Society members, in conjunction with Norton Priory staff put on a number of events/demonstrations of an archaeological nature giving visitors hands-on experience. Such diverse activities as medieval cooking techniques, drawing, wall construction and tile making were demonstrated. A replica English Civil War matchlock musket was also available for people to inspect at close quarters. This year we expect to build on this success by offering a wider range of activities. The event is essentially organised with children in mind, to promote archaeology amongst the

younger generation. The day also gives visitors and helps the opportunity to look round the Priory.

This year we are hopeful that we can improve on this, given greater time to organise activities and advertising. However, we cannot do this without the help of a large number of volunteers. So what is involved? Firstly, all you need is a few hours of spare time on either the 9th or 10th of September. No prior experience or skills are required and entry to the Priory will be free on both days to everyone. If you haven't got transport, lifts to and from the Priory can be arranged. Secondly, you will need to complete and return the tear off slip below and we will be in touch a little nearer the time.

Field Reports:

Hale.

Work has continued with the production of the report of the field walking conducted by Jen Lewis' day class during January. The exercise resulted in the recording of medieval and roman pottery sherds. Many thanks to those who took part in the field walking and finds analysis. It is expected that further field-walking will be conducted in the summer. A survey of Mill Wood in Hale/Halewood has also started. It is hoped that a base-line will be laid out within the next few days. Field work/survey is expected to continue for sometime.

Diary Dates:

Bangor University Walks in Clwyd:

17 June Caergwrle Castle

12 July Dyserth and Moel Hiraddug

For further details ring 01745 890647

CBA North-West:

18 November Reports meeting. Details in next Newsletter

Liverpool Saga: Exploring your local heritage:

12 June Civil War and Lathom House

26 June Ribchester

For further details ring Jack Cooper on 0151 228 5021

Peak National Park:

18 June Back to the Bronze Age. A walk in the eastern moors of the Peak District to look at substantial prehistoric remains and an excavation.

Futher details from Peak National Park. Tel: 01629 816200

Courses at Snowdonia National Park Study Centre:

28 May-2 June Old Roads and Ancient Trackways of Snowdonia

24 June-15 July Excavation of prehistoric iron-working site at Crawcwellt

For further details and prospectus ring 01766 590324

Cheshire Living History Week-end

27-28 August Re-enactment of Battle of Rowton Moor at Cotton Abbots Farm, Waverton.

Further details from Chester City Council. Tel: 01244 402023

A plea from the Newsletter Editor!

Recently, the Newsletter has become rather sparse on News. It was never the intention that it should become a mere diary of events. There are a number of projects of an archaeological nature being organised within Merseyside which I am sure members would be interested to hear about. Contributors require no academic qualifications and as long as the subject matter is relevant to archaeology, publication is more or less guaranteed. So, if you've been on a day out to an archaeological site, attended a lecture or course which you think would be of interest to others or would be willing to review a book or article, get writing and share your experience with others. The deadline for the next Newsletter is 15 September. I look forward to hearing from you! Contributions to Dave Roberts, 16 Ranelagh Drive South, Garston, Liverpool L19 9DR.

Subscriptions for 1995

Subscriptions for 1995 were due in January. A membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please note the Treasurer's change of name and address. Thank you.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY(S)

I am willing to offer assistance at Norton Priory on(date).

I shall be available between the following hours on the day

I do/do not* require transport.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone No.....

I shall be accompanied by other helpers

* delete as appropriate.

Forms to be returned by 25 June to: Dave Roberts, 16 Ranelagh Drive South, Garston, Liverpool L19 9DR

**MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
1995 Subscription Form**

To: Mrs P. E. Roberts, 16 Ranelagh Drive South, Garston, Liverpool L19 9DR

I enclose my subscription for 1995 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Ordinary	: £8.00	Junior:	£2.00	Family	: £10.00
Institutional	: £12.00			OAP, UB40 etc:	£5.00

I am interested in the following activities (please tick):

Surveying and Recording	Publications	Excavation	
Field Walking	Field Visits	Drawing	Other
Documentary Research			



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: September 1995 (3/95)

Lecture Programme 1995/6.

- 19 October Civil War In Chester
Simon Ward. **Note change of lecture**
- 16 November The Palaeolithic in Japan
Anthony Sinclair
- 13 December Christmas Party. Excelsior Hotel, Dale Street. **Provisional date.** See below.
- 18 January Revealing the Wroxeter Hinterland
Roger White
- 15 February Anglo-Saxon Settlement in the West Midlands
Mike Stokes
- 21 March Landscapes and Sites of the Pennine Fringe from the
Mesolithic to the Industrial Period: An Archaeological Survey
Norman Redhead
- 18 April A.G.M. plus The Sculptured Crosses of Early Medieval Ireland:
Ornament, Iconography and Function
Nancy Edwards

All lectures (except the Christmas meeting) are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trips etc Programme Spring/Summer 1996.

- 11 May Visit to Carlisle. Mike McCarthy
- 15 June Trip to various Welsh Hill Forts. Stephen Greuter
- 13 July Anglesey Re-visited. Dorothy O'Hanlon

Further information from Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802

MAS Christmas Party 1995

This year we have decided to return to the Excelsior Hotel in Dale Street for a members evening. As in previous years, the format will be one of lively social interaction interspersed with slide shows (sort out the holiday snaps!) and other events. If you wish to contribute, contact any Committee member. There will be a modest entrance fee to cover a buffet. Final details and tickets will be available at the next 2 lectures or from Ken Lamb. Please note that the **13th December is a Wednesday**. If you intend to come, please let Ken know in advance.

Week-end Event. Spring/Summer 1996

Two or three years ago it was suggested that the Society should organise a week-end away to an area of archaeological interest. If the demand is still there, the Committee now intends to plan something for next year. So far there have been 2 'serious' suggestions, namely Scotland (Orkney would be nice but....) and South West England (Wiltshire/Somerset). A visit of this scale is obviously going to take some time to organise and we shall be eager to hear your ideas/comments at the October meeting.

National Archaeology Days

Members of the Society took part in two events this year. In common with last year we were involved in the planning and organising of the weekend at Norton Priory. We also helped out at Liverpool Museum the following weekend.

9/10 September at Norton Priory

Following on from last years success, a bigger, better National Archaeology weekend was staged at Norton Priory on Saturday/Sunday 9/10 September. The brave decision to stage the event over two rather than the single day last year proved worthwhile. The weather was kind to us yet again and on the Sunday, in particular, both volunteers and visitors were able to enjoy a 'last fling' of summer.

The Priory provides a wonderful setting for such an event. Activities included medieval cooking and spinning in the walled garden, which proved tremendously popular. Around the Priory buildings people of all ages tried their hand at heraldry, illuminated manuscripts, tile making, archaeological planning and drawing and pottery sorting. Those who still had the energy were able to take part in a guided tour of the buildings and gardens. All this for free!

The Society's stand in the foyer fielded a variety of enquiries ranging from information on how to join the Society to requests for details on how to become an archaeologist. Society publications also proved popular, generating healthy sales.

Over the two days, 446 people visited the site. Like last year it was not just school children who participated but also their parents. However, it was usually the children whose imagination was caught by the activities on offer. The ingenuity that went in to the design of family crests was amazing!

Those who visited Norton Priory over the weekend will agree that it was a great success yet again. Ken Lamb has received a letter addressed to the Society from Amanda Feather, the Education Officer at the Priory, thanking all who took part. Without your help it would not have been the success it was. For those of us who did not get the opportunity to tour the site, we hope to arrange a visit next Spring. There will be details in a future Newsletter.

16/17 September at Liverpool Museum

I would like to thank all MAS members who came to help out at the Liverpool Museum National Archaeology weekend over the 16th and 17th September. The 'Have A Go At Archaeology' activities were a great success. In total we had 983 visitors, 409 on Saturday and 574 on Sunday, with many families making a specific trip to the Museum to see the event.

All age groups were able to try their hand at:
'digging into ' the Internet and looking at archaeology on the World Wide Web;
recording a skeleton and its grave goods;
sorting finds from excavations;
recording stratigraphy;
making a Saxon pot;
and designing their own Anglo-Saxon brooch.

An 'Archaeological Information Desk' provided details about the MAS, the CBA and numerous other organisations and local sites of interest, In addition, around 30 young people expressed an interest in a Liverpool based branch of the Young Archaeologists Club and I had several questions from young people keen to find out how to begin a career in archaeology.

All in all, the weekend was most enjoyable, if hard work. The event would not have been the success it was without the help and support of MAS members. Many thanks to them once again. I hope to be able to run a similar event next year and possibly some more scientific based activities for the national week of Science, Engineering and Technology from 17th March 1996. Watch this space!

Lynn Smith, Assistant Curator, Field Archaeology, Liverpool Museum

MAS Journal Volume 9

Volume 9 is now available, free to those who were members in either 1990 or 1991 or at the cost of £8 to current members of the Society, who were not members in either of the aforementioned years. If you think you are entitled to a Journal or want to purchase one, contact Christine Longworth at Liverpool Museum.. The Journal will also be on sale at forthcoming evening lectures.

Field Reports:

Hale

Recent work has included the investigation of 2 fields adjacent to the lighthouse on the banks of the River Mersey. Thanks to the MAS volunteers who took part. Results are quite exciting. A quantity of flint (some worked), Roman and Medieval pottery has been recovered and recorded. A small fragment of stone axe (to be confirmed) has been found. A small strip of the easternmost field was walked in detail over three successive visits. The results show a concentration of Roman pottery sherds indicating the possible presence of a site.

Sites and Monuments Record(SMR) for Merseyside

The SMR is maintained within the Field Archaeology Section at Liverpool Museum and forms a database of all items of archaeological interest, from stray finds, through buildings to confirmed/suspected sites within Merseyside. The record is an invaluable tool when evaluating the archaeological potential of areas threatened by development. In order to keep the database up to date, please pass on any results of fieldwork (even negative ones!) to Sarah-Jane Farr, the Sites and Monuments Officer at the Museum.

Courses 1995/96

Liverpool:

Understanding Human Origins

10 fortnightly meetings from Monday 9 October by Dr. Anthony Sinclair
(in collaboration with M.A.S)

Ancient Egypt: The Land And Its People

20 weekly meetings from Tuesday 10 October by Mr Donald Lowle

Latin for Beginners

26 weekly meetings from Tuesday 10 October by Mr. John Harrop

The Rise And Fall of Classical Sparta

10 weekly meetings from Tuesday 10 October by Mr. Edmund Gaskell

The Archaeology of Medieval Landscapes

10 weekly meetings from Wednesday 11 October by Dr. Jennifer Lewis

Ancient Egypt: The Land And Its People

20 weekly meetings from Wednesday 11 October by Mr Donald Lowle

Celtic And Anglo-Saxon Society in North-West Britain In Early Christian Times

10 weekly meetings from Wednesday 11 October by Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon

The Archaeology of Iran: Neolithic-Persian Empire 12,000-330BC
10 weekly meetings from Wednesday 11 October by Mr. M. Charlesworth

Classical Greek: Year 2
20 weekly meetings from Thursday 12 October by Mrs N. Fox

Early Christianity in Northumbria
10 weekly meetings from 16 January by Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon

Where Is The Archaeology? An Introduction To The Written Sources For The North
West of England
10 weekly meetings from Tuesday 16 January by Dr. P. Freeman

Looking At Historical Buildings: The Archaeologist's View
10 weekly meetings from Wednesday 17 January by Dr. Jennifer Lewis

The History, Art And Archaeology Of The Persian Empire 550-330 BC
10 weekly meetings from Wednesday 17 January by Mr. Martin Charlesworth

Day Schools:

Artefact Studies: 2 linked day-schools
Early Hominid Technologies. The First Cutting Edges
Saturday 14 October by Dr J. A. Gowlett and Dr. A. Sinclair
Early Metalwork And Fashion
Saturday 16 March by Miss D. O'Hanlon, Mrs. F. Philpott, Mr. M. Pinder and Dr. R.
White

Archaeology And The Written Word: 2 linked day-schools
The Bible And Archaeology
Saturday 25 November by Prof. A.R. Millard, Prof. K. Kitchen and others
Documents For The Archaeologist
Saturday 25 May by Dr. J. Lewis

Teaching Excavation:
Summer 1996 by Dr J. Lewis and others for 2 weeks

Bebington:

The History, Art And Archaeology of Ancient Egypt
20 weekly meetings from Tuesday 10 October by Dr. D. Downes

Wallasey:

The History, Art And Archaeology of Ancient Egypt
20 weekly meetings from Monday 9 October by Dr. D. Downes

Ormskirk:

Tutankhamun: Pharaoh Of Egypt

10 weekly meetings from Tuesday 3 October by Mr. D. Lowle

The History of Egyptology

10 weekly meetings from Tuesday 9 January by Mr. D. Lowle

Southport:

Life In A Roman Province

10 weekly meetings from Wednesday 11 October by Mrs. V. Hall

Chester:

The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt

10 weekly meetings from Thursday 11 January by Mr. D. Lowle

Residential Courses:

Cumbria:

Landscape Interpretation In The Field

One week in July 1996 by Dr. D. Atkinson, Dr. J. Lewis and Dr. R. Wright

Northumbria:

Medieval Buildings, Landscapes And Societies Of Northumbria

18-21 April 1996 by Dr. J. Lewis and Dr. P. W. Dixon

Further information regarding all the above can be obtained from The Centre For Continuing Education, The University Of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 3BX Tel: 0151-794-6900 (24 hours)

Other Events:

Chester:

Trade And The Port Of Chester: Chester Archaeological Seminar No. 4

One day seminar at Grosvenor Museum on Wednesday 8 November. A wide range of speakers will review what is already known of the port and present results of recent research from the Iron Age to the nineteenth century. The fee is £5 and details can be obtained from Chester Archaeology, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD Tel: 01244 402009



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: January 1996 (1/96)

Subscriptions for 1996

Subscriptions for 1996 are due in January and a membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Lecture Programme 1996.

- 15 February Visit to Liverpool Museum, Conservation Centre
Conservation Centre Staff.
**Please note this is a change to the lecture programme and is
NOT to be held in the Museum. Details below.**
- 21 March Landscapes and Sites of the Pennine Fringe from the
Mesolithic to the Industrial Period: An Archaeological Survey
Norman Redhead
- 18 April A.G.M. plus The Sculptured Crosses of Early Medieval Ireland:
Ornament, Iconography and Function
Nancy Edwards

All lectures (except the 15 February meeting) are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trips etc Programme Spring/Summer1996.

- 11 May Visit to Carlisle. Mike McCarthy
- 15 June Trip to various Welsh Hill Forts. Stephen Greuter
- 13 July Anglesey Re-visited. Dorothy O'Hanlon

Further information from Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802

Visit to Liverpool Museum Conservation Centre on 15 February.

Unfortunately, Mike Stokes will not be able to come and speak to us as arranged. We have however been fortunate in obtaining a visit to the new Conservation Centre, where we will be given a guided tour which I believe will include areas not normally open to the public. We shall meet outside the Conservation Centre building on the corner of Whitechapel and Crosshall Street at 7.30.

Field Reports:

Timber- framed buildings

Jen Lewis, Department of Archaeology, University of Liverpool

Few people, I believe, who have been involved in Merseyside's archaeology, can doubt that in years gone by many medieval and later buildings in the region were timber framed. We all know, of course Speke Hall. Here dendrochronological sampling (tree-ring dating) has shown that the hall was raised in several phases. These started with the Great Hall and parlour in 1530 and 1531 respectively, followed fifteen years later by the West Range and the courtyard plan was complete by the end of the 16th century. A building which grew organically, so it seems; an expanding family, increased wealth, higher social awareness, a fashion in building design - perhaps all these factors played some role to a greater or lesser degree.

Cruck-framed cottages such as the Scotch Piper Inn, Lydiate and 62 Gores Lane, Formby are also important survivors and, like Stock Cottage in Haskayne, have been recorded in detail. Others, such as the cottage at Diglake in Scarisbrick, have fallen into decay and finally been demolished. The origins of such buildings lie in the rural community, at the lower end of the social scale and, with the exception of the Scotch Piper which has been dated to the mid-sixteenth century, specific dating evidence is lacking.

As buildings undergo repair, and perhaps television programmes such as Time Team have increased people's awareness of early buildings, there is a gentle trickle of information about other timber-framed houses in the region. Cruck-framed cottages in North Meols (Southport), Ince Blundell and West Derby (yes, I mean it) are matched by box-framed houses at Halsall and the important barn at Newton Hall Farm in Newton-le-Willows, an extremely rare survival at a time when barn conversions are threatening the structural integrity of our early buildings.

It is particularly gratifying to be asked to study a building at a time when its structural details are exposed. Recent repairs to three houses in the region have provided the opportunity not only to examine and record them but, almost coincidentally, they have all been subject to dendrochronological sampling.

Lydiate Hall is well known to many society members from the archaeological excavations in 1981-82 (read all about it in JMAS 6). At the time, samples were taken from timbers, most of which had collapsed *in situ*, and it was shown quite conclusively that, like Speke Hall, the place dated from the second half of the 16th century. The ruined remains still stand, at the end of 1995, a programme of consolidation was set in place. This has enabled a detailed archaeological study to take place and, to our great

surprise, we have found no less than 27 different timbers encapsulated within later brickwork. These, it is hoped, will be repaired and retained as evidence for the structural history of the Hall. A full report will be produced once the work is completed.

I have just received news from the Dendrochronological Laboratory at Sheffield University that a farmhouse at Lightshaw near Wigan, where I have been working (so my files tell me) since 1990, also dates from the second half of the 16th century. Here, only the three-bay solar (private) wing of a larger timber-framed house survives. In the roof is one very fine queenpost truss with quatrefoil infills and traces of red paint, and a second, closed truss. The building is encapsulated within a brick skin and, from the outside, has entirely the appearance of an 18th century farmhouse. An early 14th-century document, however, led us to suspect a house of considerably earlier date belonging to a relative of the infamous Sir Robert de Holland. It is gratifying to know that structural anomalies (a tie beam associated with the closed truss and a beam found outside the house, below a thick layer of clay), have now justified my suspicions. They cross match and provide what seems to be an unequivocal 13th-century date. The tie-beam, therefore, comes from an earlier building and, since it is entirely incorporated into the 16th-century building, we can give a close date to the repair. We can also suppose that the same repair work led either to the creation or cleaning of an adjacent moat or pond and the deposit of a thick spread of clay over an earlier building. Such evidence conforms with a post-medieval date for a number of other local moats of supposed medieval date (including, incidentally, Speke Hall)...but that's another story.

The third building is at Greasby, on Wirral. This is yet another brick and sandstone building with all the external appearance of a post-medieval structure. During repair, however, two almost complete timber framed walls were exposed and these are structurally contemporary with surviving parts of the roof. One of the walls is decorated with a black and white painted design of fruit and flowers. After the design had been completed, a doorway in the centre of the wall was blocked in and a crude attempt was made to mask the infilled area by copying the earlier pattern. The first phase of painting is thought to date from the late 16th or early 17th century and this proposal has now been put to the test by sampling the timbers in the frame and roof in the hope of establishing a date. The results, from the Tree-Ring Laboratory at Nottingham University are awaited.

Members may be interested to know that in 1999, the annual meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Group will be held in Liverpool. Perhaps some of you have buildings, which you have recorded - or would like to record. If they are suitable for inclusion in site visits in 1999, I should be interested, very interested to know.

Hale

Dave Roberts

Some of the finds made during the late 1995 fieldwalking exercise have now been sorted and analysed. Evidence, in the form of worked flint, of at least two mesolithic sites has been recorded and further verification of known activity during the neolithic period in Hale has been obtained. The exercise will continue at the first opportunity.

Calling All Budding Young Archaeologists!

Lynn Smith, Assistant Curator in Field Archaeology at Liverpool Museum and Jo Jones who is currently studying at Liverpool University are setting up a Merseyside branch of the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) based in Liverpool. So, if you are aged between 9 and 16 years old and would like to become involved in archaeology, or you are already a member of the YAC please contact Lynn, c/o Field Archaeology, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN.

Careers In Archaeology

If anyone has any questions concerning careers in archaeology I am only too pleased to help and/or put people in touch with other organisations. Please send your queries to Lynn Smith c/o Field Archaeology, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN.

The Sites and Monuments Record For Merseyside

The 1995 Christmas gathering provided a welcome opportunity to explain my role as the Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Officer based in Liverpool Museum. Briefly, I am employed by the 5 districts of Merseyside to provide archaeological planning advice based on the SMR (a record of all known archaeological and historical information in Merseyside on computer, map and documentary form).

I am aware that with the advent of developer funded archaeology it is increasingly difficult for those interested in archaeology, though not necessarily employed in the field, to contribute to work within the region. Fieldwalking is only one aspect of archaeological work in which volunteers may wish to participate, though is perhaps the most obvious one in which people can be involved and see relatively quick results!

In 1996 Lynn Smith and I intend to discuss with Rob Philpott (curator of Roman and Post Roman Archaeology) and Ron Cowell (Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology) suitable areas for fieldwalking so that we can gear our work towards the region's research aims. As fieldwalking is very much a seasonal pursuit, we hope over the next few months to set up a programme of work for late Autumn '96.

Sarah-Jane Farr

Courses 1996

Liverpool:

Early Metalwork And Fashion

Saturday 16 March by Miss D. O'Hanlon, Mrs. F. Philpott, Mr. M. Pinder and Dr. R. White

Documents For The Archaeologist

Saturday 25 May by Dr. J. Lewis

Teaching Excavation:
Summer 1996 by Dr J. Lewis and others for 2 weeks

Ormskirk:

The Lancashire Landscape: The Past in the Present
10 meetings from 28 February by Dr Alan Crosby

Residential Courses:

Cumbria:

Landscape Interpretation In The Field
One week in July 1996 by Dr. D. Atkinson, Dr. J. Lewis and Dr. R. Wright

Northumbria:

Medieval Buildings, Landscapes And Societies Of Northumbria
25-28 April 1996 by Dr. J. Lewis and Dr. P. W. Dixon. **Note change of date!**

North Wales:

The Prehistoric Monuments and Landscapes of Anglesey
20-22 September based in Beaumaris

Scotland:

Prehistoric Monuments, Societies and Landscapes of Orkney
2-6 September by Miss D O'Hanlon. **Note change of date!**

Further information regarding all the above can be obtained from The Centre For Continuing Education, The University Of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 3BX Tel: 0151-794-6900 (24 hours)

Other Events

Centre For North-West Regional Studies at Lancaster University 23rd One-Day Archaeology Conference on Saturday 2 March (includes report on a medieval site at Fazakerley). Further information from Dr. E. A. M. Roberts, Centre for North-West Regional Studies, Fylde College, Lancaster LA1 4YF



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Lecture Programme 1996/97.

- 19 September Tracing the Roman Stone Trade
Olwen Williams-Thorpe
- 17 October Development of the Cheshire Landscape
Keith Matthews
- 21 November Docklands Past
Adrian Jarvis
- 16 January Recent Work at Shelton, Staffordshire
David Parker
- 20 February Vikings in Greenland: An Insect Eyes View
Paul Buckland
- 20 March The Anglo Saxons in Barton-on-Humber
Martin Foreman
- 17 April A.G.M plus lecture entitled
Joseph Williams: The Mole of Edgehill
David Bridson

All meetings are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street,
Liverpool at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1.

Further information from Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: September 1996 (2/96)

Lecture Programme 1996/97.

- 19 September Tracing the Roman Stone Trade
Olwen Williams-Thorpe
- 17 October Development of the Cheshire Landscape
Keith Matthews
- 21 November Docklands Past
Adrian Jarvis
- 5 December Christmas Party at the Excelsior, Dale Street (see below)
- 16 January Recent Work at Shelton, Staffordshire
David Parker
- 20 February Vikings in Greenland: An Insect Eyes View
Paul Buckland
- 20 March The Anglo Saxons in Barton-on-Humber
Martin Foreman
- 17 April A.G.M plus lecture entitled
Joseph Williams: The Mole of Edgehill
David Bridson

All meetings, except that on 5 December, are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Further information from Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802

Courses

Enquiries to: Mrs Lesley Crombie (0151-794 2550)

LIVERPOOL

SITE FORMATION AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD: 'HOW WE KNOW WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW ABOUT THE PAST'

Mr Patrick Quinney, Mr David Bell, Mr Anthony Sinclair and Mr Robert Janaway. 10 fortnightly meetings from Mon 13 Jan 7.00-9.00. **Reduced fee for MAS members**

THE HISTORY OF EGYPTOLOGY: REDISCOVERY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Mr Donald Lowle. 10 mtgs from Tues 8 Oct 1.30-3.30

THE HISTORY OF EGYPTOLOGY: REDISCOVERY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Mr Donald Lowle. 10 mtgs from Tues 8 Oct 6.00-8.00

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr Jennifer Lewis. 20 mtgs incl 2 field days from Wed 9 Oct 10.15-12.15

ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THE RISE OF MACEDON

Mr E. Gaskell. 10 mtgs from Wed 9 Oct 1.30-3.30

ILLUSTRATING FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Dr John-Gordon Swogger. 10 mtgs from Wed 9 Oct 6.30-8.30

CHAOS, CONTINUITY AND CONFLICT IN BARBARIAN EUROPE

Miss D. O'Hanlon. 10 mtgs from Tues 14 Jan 10.00-12.00

PYRAMIDS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Mr Donald Lowle. 10 mtgs from Tues 14 Jan 1.30-3.30

PYRAMIDS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Mr Donald Lowle. 10 mtgs from Tues 14 Jan 6.00-8.00

ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THE RISE OF MACEDON

Mr E. Gaskell. 10 mtgs from Tues 14 Jan 7.00-9.00

SETTLEMENTS AND LANDSCAPES IN NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

Dr Philip Freeman and Dr Jennifer Lewis. 10 mtgs from Wed 15 Jan 6.30-9.00

INTERPRETING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

Dr Anthony Sinclair. 10 mtgs from Wed 15 Jan 7.00-9.00

AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN EVOLUTION

Mr Patrick Quinney. 10 mtgs and 2 full-day practical mtgs, incl visit to Chester Zoo from Thur 16 Jan 7.00-9.00

WORKING WITH STONES. TECHNIQUES AND FORMS OF EARLY STONEMASONRY

Dr A. Sinclair and Mr John Lord. 2 linked days, Sat 12 and Sun 13 Oct 9.30-4.30

NEW LIGHT FROM THE CRADLE OF CIVILISATION: THE ANCIENT EAST EXPOSED
Dr Douglas Baird, Dr P. Freeman and other specialist speakers. 2 linked days, Sat 30
Nov-Sun 1 Dec 9.30-4.30

TOMB ART OF ANCIENT EGYPT
Mr Khaled Dawood. 2 linked Saturdays, 11 and 25 Jan 9.30-4.30

EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS
Dr Penny Wilson. 4 linked days, Sat/Sun 8-9 and 22-23 Feb 9.30-4.30

ANCIENT SCIENCE: SOME DOCUMENTARY SOURCES
Mrs Noreen Fox. 2 linked Saturdays, 10 and 17 May 9.30-4.30

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATION IN THE FIELD
Mr John-Gordon Swogger. A course of 2 evng mtgs, Thur 5 and 19 June, 6.30-8.30
and 4 full field days, Sat/Sun 7-8 and 14-15 June 9.00-4.30

BEBINGTON

ANCIENT EGYPT: THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE
Dr Dorothy Downes. 20 mtgs incl. museum visit from Tues 8 Oct 10.30-12.30

WALLASEY

ANCIENT EGYPT: THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE
Dr Dorothy Downes. 20 mtgs incl. museum visit from Mon 7 Oct 10.30-12.30

CROSBY

LIFE IN A ROMAN PROVINCE
Mrs Vita Hall. 10 mtgs from Tues 8 Oct 1.30-3.30

ORMSKIRK

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF IRAN: NEOLITHIC-PERSIAN EMPIRE 12.000-330 BC
Mr Martin Charlesworth. 10 mtgs from Tues 8 Oct 6.30-8.30

THE REDISCOVERY OF ANCIENT EGYPT
Mr Donald Lowle. 10 mtgs from Wed 9 Oct 1.30-3.30

THE HISTORY, ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE : 550-330 BC
Mr Martin Charlesworth. 10 mtgs from Tues 7 Jan 6.30-8.30

PYRAMIDS OF ANCIENT EGYPT
Mr Donald Lowle. 10 mtgs from Wed 8 Jan 1.30-3.30

CHESTER

THE PRESENT PAST: AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY IN CHESHIRE
Mr Keith Matthews. 20 mtgs incl 2 field mtgs from Wed 25 Sept 7.00-9.00

ANCIENT EGYPT: THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE
Mr Donald Lowle. 20 mtgs from Thur 26 Sept 6.45-8.45

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
Dr Jennifer Lewis and others. 2 weeks Mon-Fri non-residential course, Summer 1997,
dates and location to be arranged.

RESIDENTIAL COURSES AND STUDY TOURS

Further information about all residential courses is available from Mrs Lesley Crombie
at the Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby
Square, Liverpool L69 3BX (0151-794 2550) Archaeology

MONUMENTS OF PREHISTORIC WESSEX
Dr Jennifer Lewis and Dr Philip Dixon. 10-14 April 1997, based Marlborough

RAVENNA: THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY OF A LATE ROMAN CITY
Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon. 1 week study tour, May 1997

PREHISTORIC SOCIETIES IN THE ORKNEY LANDSCAPE
Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon. 1-5 Sept, 1997 based Kirkwall

ANCIENT LANDSCAPES IN THE LLEYN PENINSULA
Mr S. Rhys Williams. 19-21 Sept 1997, based Abersoch

Field Reports:

Hale

Dave Roberts

Field-walking in Hale will continue in September. For further information contact
Dave Roberts Tel: 0151 427 2980

Christmas Party

This will take place at the Excelsior Hotel on Dale Street, Liverpool on 5 December
commencing around 7.30 p.m. In common with previous years, we shall organise a
buffet, for which a charge of £2.50 will be made. The main aim of the evening is for it
to be a social event where people have an opportunity to meet fellow members.
Further details and tickets will be available at the autumn lectures. If you cannot attend
the lectures and wish to come to the party, contact Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802.

Merseyside Archaeological Society 21st Birthday.

The Society becomes 21 years of age in 1997! The Committee feel that this should be
comemmorated and will organise a suitable event by way of celebration. Those of you
who attended the 18th birthday party will know what a great success it was despite the
fact that it was organised at very short notice and was held, literally a few days before
Christmas, when it was difficult for people to find the time to attend. We feel that
given 9 months notice (we shall hold it during the summer months!) we should be able

to do something bigger and better for the 21st. The event will be open to any one who has been a member of the Society at any time during its 21 year history. We are, however, aware that many former members have now either lost touch or moved away from the area. If you know the address of anyone who has moved away please pass it on to any member of the Committee at any of the forthcoming lectures in order that formal invitations can be sent out in good time. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.

National Archaeology Weekend

This will take place at Norton Priory over the weekend of 14-15 September 1996. As part of a nationwide series of events taking place throughout the U.K., Merseyside Archaeological Society, in association with The Norton Priory Museum Trust, have organised an exciting programme of activities for all the family to enjoy. You can join our guided walk, try your hand at Medieval Tile Making, give spinning a 'spin', or simply enjoy the atmosphere while strolling through the museum grounds or the award-winning Walled Garden. The fun starts at noon on both days and will continue to around 4 pm. Entry is free throughout the weekend!

If, however, you are feeling particularly energetic, we still require volunteers to help out during the weekend. No prior knowledge or experience is required, just turn up at 11.30 a.m on the day. If you need any further details, contact Dave Roberts. Tel: 0151 427 2980.

Subscriptions for 1996

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to join for 1996, a form is enclosed below.

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1996 Subscription Form

To: Mrs P. E. Roberts, 16 Ranelagh Drive South, Garston, Liverpool L19 9DR

I enclose my subscription for 1996 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name.....

Address.....
.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Ordinary	: £8.00	Junior:	£2.00	Family	: £10.00
Institutional	: £12.00			OAP, UB40 etc:	£5.00

Calling all Photographers!

For anyone who is wishing to take photographs of finds, archaeological sections etc., Jim O'Neill is offering to loan a set of 'scale rods' that he has made. He has 1 x 2m rod, 2 x 1m rods and 4 x 50cm rods made from 2cm x 2cm timber. Anyone wishing to borrow them can contact Jim directly. Tel: 0151 632 2047.

Advertising

Please find enclosed a poster advertising the lecture programme. If you have access to a noticeboard in a library, place of work etc., the Society would be grateful for the publicity.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: January 1997 (1/97)

Subscriptions for 1997

Subscriptions for 1997 were due in January and a membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Lecture Programme Spring 1997.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 20 February | Vikings in Greenland: An Insect Eye's View
Paul Buckland |
| 20 March | The Anglo Saxons in Barton-on-Humber
Martin Foreman |
| 17 April | A.G.M plus lecture entitled
Joseph Williams: The Mole of Edgehill
David Bridson |

All meetings are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trips Summer 1997

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 10 May | Askham Moor, Cumbria (multi-period upland landscape).
Leader Jamie Quartermain |
| 19 July | Warburton (preserved medieval village)
Leader Mike Neville |
| 30 August | Chester Cathedral.
Leader Simon Ward |

Further information from Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802

Field Reports:

Hale

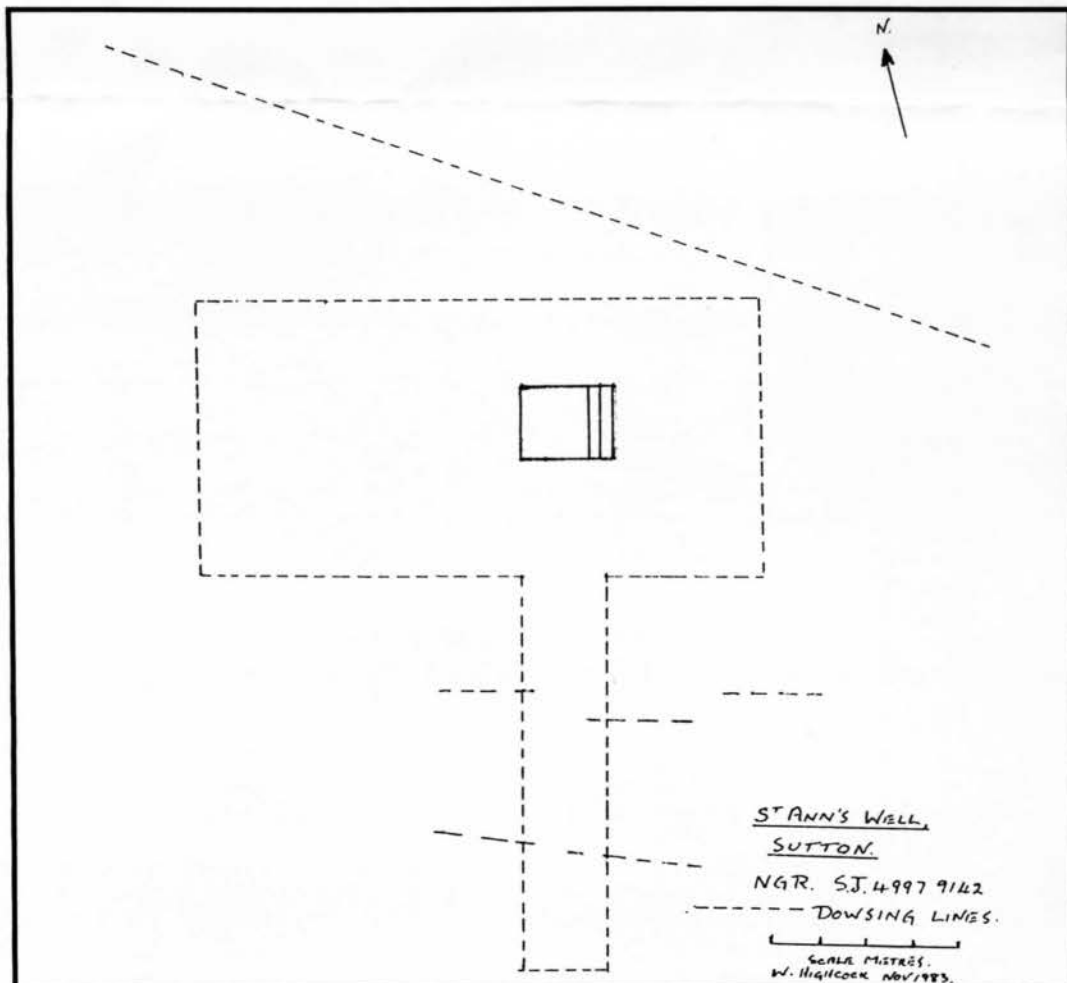
Dave Roberts

There is a limited opportunity for further field-walking during the latter part of February and early March. For further information contact Dave Roberts Tel: 0151 427 2980. During recent months work has been carried out on the 18th century documents in preparation for the submission of a report in the next (but one) MAS Journal.

St Helens

Bill Highcock

A preliminary single handed survey was carried out using the dowsing technique at St. Ann's Well, Sutton. Unfortunately, the field in which the well is situated had been freshly ploughed and movement about the site was very difficult. However, sufficient information was recovered to draw up the plan below, which can be used in conjunction with and appended to M.A.S. Journal 3 p.53.



The anomaly crossing the upper left to middle right of the plan was initially thought to have been left by a boundary wall or hedge but present thinking would suggest that it followed the line of the original pathway from Micklehead Green to Rainhill.

The dimensions of the enclosure round the well compared to those of the well itself suggest that a building or chapel had occupied the site, rather than just a surrounding wall to prevent cattle or inebriated wayfarers from falling into the well.

The grave slots are just a suggestion, based purely on the fact that the anomalies were nearly two metres long, pointing east-west, and on the south side of the well.

A tentative search of the area to the south-east of the well along the side of the Pendle Brook showed up a further set of anomalies within 100 metres of the well. A quick survey revealed the plan of a four-roomed building. Unfortunately, time did not permit a more detailed survey.

Murray's "Handbook of Lancashire" published in 1880, describing the Eltonhead district, records that "it once abounded in ancient residences and crosses; but they have almost disappeared and their place knoweth them no more".

Bearing in mind the length of time that the field has been under cultivation it is most unlikely that any form of structural evidence remains below ground level, therefore the anomalies that were detected, apart from the graves, are most likely the result of 'imprint', ie. caused by compaction of the underlying subsoils, due to the weight of the structure that had once occupied the site.

As stated in the opening sentence, this was a preliminary survey and the conditions under which it was carried out, both of the field and the weather, were far from ideal. Nevertheless, from the results obtained, I believe that a more thorough survey using dowsing techniques, would bring to light more information which could not be recovered by other means.

Would you like to dine with a famous archaeologist?

Some of you may be aware that it is a Society tradition that we offer to 'entertain' our guest speakers prior to the monthly lectures, by inviting them for a meal. This takes place at a city centre restaurant, meeting at around 6pm. Usually, about six Society members take advantage of this rare privilege. If you would like to be one of them, contact Ken Lamb the day before the lecture for details.

Publications

Meseseide Archaeological Society Journal 10 will be published shortly.

Fieldwalking

It is expected that the Society will be able to announce the long promised fieldwalking programme shortly. Areas that are due to be available include a field in the grounds of Speke Hall.

Committee Membership

We are always looking for keen individuals who would be willing to sit on the Council. The responsibilities are not onerous. You will be required to attend six Council meetings a year and help organise MAS activities. No prior experience is required. If you are interested in becoming a member of Council please make yourself known at the February or March lecture.

Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society

Events

Monday 24 February MIHS Open Evening.

Thursday 27 March Bromborough - Shipbuilding Village:- MIHS visit to
McTay Marine.

For further details please contact P. Reed, c/o Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN

British Brick Society

The British Brick Society are planning a day out in Liverpool on 12 April. The walk is being led by David Kennett . He is proposing to start at 10 a.m., meeting in the car park by the National Express bus station. He would be happy for anyone wishing to join the walk to phone him beforehand. Tel 0161 743 0640.

Merseyside Archaeological Society 21st Birthday.

As reported in the last Newsletter, the Society reaches 21 years of age in 1997! The 'celebrations' will be open to anyone who has been a member of the Society at any time during it's 21 year history. It has now been decided that the event will be held on Saturday 21st (a coincidence!) June, so keep the day free in your diaries. In order to assist with preparations, including the selection of a suitable venue, a small 'Birthday Party sub-committee', will be formed. If you would like to help, please contact a committee member at the next meeting. If there are not sufficient volunteers, (un)willing conscripts will be sought! To repeat the plea in the previous Newsletter, we are aware that many former members have now either lost touch or moved away from the area. If you know the address of anyone who has moved away please pass it on to any member of the Committee at any of the forthcoming lectures in order that formal invitations can be sent out. We are also seeking offers of accomodation for people travelling any distance to attend. Final details will be available in the Spring.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: September 1997 (2/97)

Lecture Programme 1997/98.

1997

- 18 September Piltdown Man
Geoffrey Tresise
- 16 October Archaeological services in Cumbria
Mike Daniels
- 20 November Archaeology of the Forest of Bowland
Richard Newman
- 4 December Christmas Party (see below)

1998

- 15 January Experimental Archaeology
Elizabeth Slater
- 19 February Archaeological evidence from burials
Robert Shannaway
- 19 March Palaeo-ecology and archaeology
Laura Bishop
- 16 April AGM & lecture entitled:
Recent archaeological discoveries in Cheshire
Adrian Tindall

All meetings are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30pm (except for the Christmas Party). Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Christmas Party

Those who are familiar with the format of the MAS Christmas Party will I hope be pleased to learn that we shall follow the successes of previous years by repeating the same formula. Primarily the event is a social affair which will include a buffet for which there will be a small charge. We shall also have a short talk from Christine Longworth on recent work at Liverpool Museum. The venue for this year's party has not yet been confirmed but further information will be available at the Autumn lectures. If you cannot attend the lectures and wish to come to the party please contact Ken Lamb a little nearer the time.

Field Trips Summer 1998

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9 May | The Prehistory of Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria
Leader Jamie Quartermain |
| 13 June | Three castles in North West Wales
Leader David Longley |
| 18 July | Three monastic sites in Shropshire
Leader Mike Stokes |

Further information from Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802

Field Reports:

St Helens

Bill Highcock

Parr Hall

A dowsing survey is planned at the former site of Parr Hall.

St Helens Canal

A dowsing survey has been carried out to identify and confirm the existence of a canal wall along the section between Merton Brook Road and Park Road. The investigation has proved to be a most interesting exercise in that it gave some insight into the amount of thought that went into original canal construction on this stretch.

Hale

Dave Roberts

Work on the 18th century documents continues. Further field walking exercises were conducted during the Spring.

Speke Hall

Dave Roberts

A small number of volunteers took part in a field walking exercise at Speke Hall during May in advance of possible development by the National Trust. Three fields were investigated and a significant quantity of archaeological material recovered. Evidence of activity in the prehistoric, roman and medieval periods was present and the results of detailed analysis of the finds are eagerly awaited.

Liverpool Museum

MISSING LINKS ALIVE! - to 3 November 1997

Visitors to Liverpool Museum can now meet up with their earliest ancestors in Liverpool Museum's stunning all-action exhibition *Missing Links Alive!*

This is the UK's first chance to see the ultimate exhibit on human evolution. The exhibition was seen last year by Edmund Southworth, Curator of Archaeology and Ethnology, Keith Robinson, Design Officer, and Peter Jennings, NMGME, in Copenhagen's zoo.

Missing Links Alive! tells a four million year old story starring primitive characters who start by learning to walk on two legs and evolve into people very like us, with religious beliefs and artistic talent. It features moving, life-like Animatronic figures to convey this exciting story, backed-up by video presentations, written information and hands-on activities. Young and old alike can play and learn about prehistoric tool making, what our ancestors ate, and even compare strength with a Neanderthal man.

Twenty of the world's most respected experts in the field of human evolution were involved in putting this exhibition together. Professor Bernard Wood from Liverpool University was one of them, and there will be an opportunity to come along to a day-school on 4, 5 October organised by Liverpool Museum and the University of Liverpool to learn more about how we lived in the Stone Age. For more information please contact the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel 0151 794 6900.

Perhaps the best known scientists involved with *Missing Links Alive!* are husband and wife team Dr Richard and Dr Maeve Leakey. Their discoveries in Kenya have taken the story of our earliest origins back to four million years ago. They and their colleagues explain to visitors the hard evidence they have uncovered and how the very earliest people lived.

Richard Leakey is featured in the exhibition as a robot, sitting in his field laboratory tent in Kenya, and sets the scene for visitors before they enter the main exhibition area. This has four separate large dioramas featuring “living” figures of *Australopithecines*, *Homo erectus*, *Neanderthals* and *Cro-Magnon* cave-painters in realistic prehistoric settings. There is also a look at how the distant future might view 1990s humans - and it is not a pretty sight!

The ‘Four Families of Man’ portrayed in the exhibition are:

Australopithecines

The first diorama takes us back four million years. Dr Maeve Leakey explains how her discovery of a leg bone shows that even so long ago our ancestors were walking on two legs rather than four, though they probably still spent some time up in the trees. The scene shows a mother and child looking for food: fruits, nuts, insects and bird’s eggs. A male and female also search for something to eat, using primitive tools. There are two other females: one is being attacked by a hyena, another defends her using a stick as a weapon.

Homo erectus

“Turkana Boy” is the best known specimen of this tall, strong race who lived in Africa 1.5 million years ago. His remains were found in Northern Kenya. Clever by ape standards, he was tall, strong and stupid relative to humans: an 11 year old with the body of a modern 15 year old, and the brain of a one year old. Yet these creatures took care of each other, as the bones of those who suffered yet survived serious injury testifies. They communicated through body postures and inarticulate calls: they had not evolved the sophisticated physical requirements for full speech.

The scene demonstrates the social ties among these beings. One *homo erectus* lies dead after a hunting accident. Another cares for an injured companion while a fourth stands guard in case of further attack by wild animals.

Neanderthals

These are our close relatives, living shortly before modern humans emerged about 40,000 to 50,000 years ago. They hunted with spears and used stone tools to process the animals they caught. They also had fire, and rituals associated with the burial of their dead. Though not the same as us, *Neanderthals* would have no trouble blending into the crowd of visitors if he or she were shaved, and dressed in modern clothes. The scene shows a group of *Neanderthal* men, women and children mourning at the grave of a dead family member, who is wrapped in reindeer skin.

Cro- Magnon

These are the cave-painters, human beings with religious beliefs and concepts of themselves and their surroundings. Approximately, 40,000 to 20,000 years ago these people entered caves not just for shelter but for ritual and religious purposes. They painted people and the animals they hunted, and stencilled handprints. The scene has a child holding a torch to provide light for a man who is going to paint on the cave wall.

A girl stencils handprints in one corner, while in another alcove is a rock on which a cave bear skull has been carefully placed.

There will also be a rare opportunity to see some evidence of early humans held in Liverpool Museums own collections. In addition visitors will be able to see several demonstrations during *Missing Links Alive!* including flint knapping and bone working. Details in the Liverpool Museum events leaflet.

Admission to *Missing Links Alive!* - adults £2.50, concessions £1, family (2 adults, up to 3 children) £6. Admission charge allows unlimited return visits until the end of the exhibition. Please keep your receipt for re-entry.

Lynn Smith

Merseyside Archaeological Society 21st Birthday.

As reported in the last Newsletter, the Society reached 21 years of age in 1997. The event was marked by a celebration at the Alt Centre in Hightown on 21 June by about 60 past and present members, some travelling long distances in order to attend. The chosen theme for the event was the archaeology of the Mersey Estuary. The celebrations commenced at 2 p.m and guests enjoyed a welcome drink while looking at a display celebrating 21 years of the Merseyside Archaeological Society.

The more serious part of the afternoon got underway with an explanation and practical demonstration of the dowsing technique from Bill Highcock. This was well received and enjoyed particularly by the younger members of the audience who tried it for themselves. Gordon Roberts then told us about his work on the animal and human footprints preserved in the mud deposits on the Formby shoreline. This was followed by a lecture on the geology and palaeo-ecology of the Mersey Estuary from Sylvia Gonzales.

We then took a break to enjoy a barbecue (yes, the weather was that good. Just!) and attack the food mountain and wine lake, much of which was donated by those present. Look out for the raffle of the surplus bottles of wine at forthcoming lectures! Ron Cowell then wound up the proceedings with a talk on his work on the prehistoric trackway recently discovered near Hightown together with a visit to the site. The day finally finished around 9 p.m., a good time having been enjoyed by all.

Renewal of subscriptions

A small number of people have not renewed their membership for 1997. If you are one of them a renewal form is enclosed for the purpose.

The University of Liverpool: Centre for Continuing Education

Archaeology and Classical Languages - 1997-1998

<i>Course</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Meetings/Credits</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	
ANCIENT LANGUAGES							
LV051-453 Classical Greek, year 2	E. Fernandez	Liverpool	Autumn/Lent	20/20	Thurs	7.00-9.00	
LV046-007 Beginners' Latin	J. Harrop	Liverpool	Autumn/Summer	26/25	Tues	7.00-9.00	
LV056-583 Intro. to language of Ancient Egypt	K. Dawood	Liverpool	Autumn/Lent	10/10	Thurs	6.30-8.30	
ANCIENT HISTORY							
LV053-547 Introduction to Classical Rome	TBA	Liverpool	Autumn	10/10	Tues	7.00-9.00	
LV047-546 Introduction to Ancient Greek Society	TBA	Liverpool	Autumn	10/10	Wed	1.30-3.30	
LV052-546 Introduction to Classical Greece	TBA	Liverpool	Lent	10/10	Tues	7.00-9.00	
LV054-547 Introduction to Classical Rome	TBA	Liverpool	Lent	10/10	Wed	1.30-3.30	
LV043-012 Myths, History & Propaganda	E. Gaskell	Liverpool	Summer	5/5	Wed	1.30-3.30	
ARCHAEOLOGY							
CH045-331 Introduction to Archaeology	K. Matthews	Chester	Autumn/Lent	20/20	Wed	7.00-9.00	
LV042-019 Interpreting the Archaeological Record <i>in collaboration with Merseyside Archaeological Society)</i>	A. Sinclair	Liverpool	Autumn/Lent	10/10	Mon (fortnightly)	7.00-9.00	MAS
LV039-334 How do we know... about the past?	P. Quinney <i>et al</i>	Liverpool	Autumn/Lent	20/20	Wed	10.15-12.15	
LV806-579 IA Communities 6th-1st C. BC	D.O'Hanlon	Liverpool	Autumn	10/10	Tues	10.00-12.00	
LV819-580 Later Iron Age & R/Brit Communities	D.O'Hanlon	Liverpool	Lent	10/10	Tues	10.00-12.00	
LV038-018 Looking at Historic Buildings	JM Lewis	Liverpool	Lent/Summer	10/10	Wed	10.15-12.15	
OR809-349 Life In A Roman Province	V. Hall	Ormskirk	Autumn	10/10	Tues	7.00-9.00	WEA
OR810-498 Roman Province	V. Hall	Ormskirk	Lent	10/10	Tues	7.00-9.00	WEA
DI050-170 Introduction to Landscape Interpretation	J.M.Lewis <i>et al</i>	Liverpool	Autumn	15/15	Mon- Wed	6.30-9.00	DLI
DI049-171 Human Influences on the Landscape	J.M. Lewis	Liverpool	Lent	15/15	Mon- Wed	6.30-9.00	DLI
NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY							
LV072-577 Hist. Art & Archaeology of Assyria & Babylonia	M.Charlesworth	Liverpool	Autumn	10/10	Wed	7.00-9.00	
LV259-578 Iran's Classical Empire	M.Charlesworth	Liverpool	Lent	10/10	Wed	7.00-9.00	

For details of these and other courses, please contact the Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX (0151-794-6900).

Academic organiser: Dr. Jennifer Lewis, Department of Archaeology, Hartley Building, The University of Liverpool L69 3BX (e-mail jenarch@liverpool.ac.uk)

The University of Liverpool: Centre for Continuing Education

Archaeology and Classical Languages - 1997-1998

<i>Course</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Meetings/Credits</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SKILLS							
LV040-333 Archaeological illustration	J-G Swogger	Liverpool	Autumn	10/10	Wed	6.30-8.30	
LV063-458 Developing skills in archaeol. illustration	J-G Swogger	Liverpool	Lent	10/10	Wed	6.30-8.30	
LV041-332 Archaeological illustration in the field	J-G Swogger	Liverpool	Summer	10/10	Wed	6.30-8.30	
EX037-021 Teaching excavation	J.M. Lewis <i>et al</i>	TBA	Summer 1998	5/5 x week	Mon- Fri	9.15-5.00	
EGYPTOLOGY							
BB808-495 Religion in Ancient Egypt	D. Downes	Bebington	Autumn	10/10	Tues	10.30-12.30	WEA
BB805-017 Pyramids of Ancient Egypt	D. Downes	Bebington	Lent	10/10	Tues	10.30-12.30	WEA
CH803-004 History, Art & Archaeology of Anc Egypt	D. Lowle	Chester	Autumn/Lent	20/20	Thurs	6.45-8.45	WEA
LV802-004 History, Art & Archaeology of Anc Egypt	D. Lowle	Liverpool	Autumn/Lent	20/20	Tues	6.00-8.00	WEA
LV048-004 History, Art & Archaeology of Anc Egypt	D. Lowle	Liverpool	Autumn/Lent	20/20	Tues	1.30-3.30	
OR804-004 History, Art & Archaeology of Anc Egypt	D. Lowle	Ormskirk	Autumn/Lent	20/20	Wed	1.30-3.30	WEA
WL815-017 Pyramids of Ancient Egypt	D. Downes	Wallasey	Lent	20/20	Mon	10.30-12.30	WEA
WL807-495 Religion in Ancient Egypt	D. Downes	Wallasey	Autumn	20/20	Tues	10.30-12.30	WEA
HUMAN EVOLUTION							
LV044-335 An Introduction to Human evolution	P. Quinney <i>et al</i>	Liverpool	Lent	12/10	Thurs	7.00-9.00	
RESIDENTIAL COURSES							
RES Prehistoric Caernarfonshire	S.R. Williams	N. Wales	Sept 1998	5/5	weekend		
LINKED DAY SCHOOLS							
LV260-002 Missing Links: Living in the Stone Age <i>(in collaboration with NMGM)</i>	A. Sinclair <i>et al</i>	Liverpool	4-5 Oct 1997	5/5	Sat/Sun	9.30-4.30	NMGM
LV064-012A Egyptian hieroglyphs	P. Wilson	Liverpool	7-8 & 21-22 Feb 1998	10/10	Sat/Sun	9.30-4.30	
TO BE ARRANGED							
CHE Prehistory and Environment	K. Matthews	Chester	Summer 1998	5/5	Sat/Sun	9.30-4.30	
NON-ACCREDITED DAY SCHOOL							
000 Bible and Archaeology	A. Millard <i>et al.</i>	Liverpool	22 Nov 1997	day school	Sat	9.30-4.30	

For details of these and other courses, please contact the Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX (0151-794-6900).

Academic organiser: Dr. Jennifer Lewis, Department of Archaeology, Hartley Building, The University of Liverpool L69 3BX (e-mail jenarch@liverpool.ac.uk)



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter: January 1998 (1/98)

Subscriptions for 1998

Subscriptions for 1998 were due in January and a membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Lecture and Field Trip Programme 1998.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 12 March | N.B. Change of date:
Palaeo-ecology and archaeology
Laura Bishop
Cambridge University |
| 16 April | AGM & lecture entitled:
Recent archaeological discoveries in Cheshire
Adrian Tindall
Cheshire County Council, Planning Dept. |
| 17 September | The Clactonian Period in Archaeology
John McNabb |
| 15 October | The Vikings in the Hebrides
Mike Pearson
West Yorkshire Archaeological Society |
| 19 November | Early Times in South Africa
Patrick Quinney
University of Liverpool |
| 3 December | Christmas Party |

All meetings are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30pm (except for the Christmas Party). Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trips Summer 1998

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9 May | Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria (multi-period upland landscape).
Leader Jamie Quartermain
Lancaster University |
| 13 June | 3 Welsh Castles, North Wales
Leader David Longley
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust |
| 18 July | 3 Monastic sites, Shropshire
Leader Mike Stokes
Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury |

Further information at forthcoming lectures and from Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802

Advertising Merseyside Archaeology Society

You will find a sheet advertising the Society's 1998 lecture programme enclosed with this Newsletter. If you have access to a notice board at work, college, or anywhere where a poster may be seen by people interested in attending our lectures we would be grateful if you could arrange for its display.

National Archaeology Weekend 1998

As many of you are aware, the Society has over the last few years made its contribution to National Archaeology Weekend by staging a joint event with Norton Priory Museum Trust in Runcorn. This year it will take place at Norton Priory over the weekend of 12-13 September. During the two days we try and conduct an exciting programme of activities for all the family to enjoy. These have included in the past a guided walk, Medieval Tile Making, spinning and heraldry. Visitors are also encouraged to enjoy the atmosphere while strolling through the museum grounds or the award-winning Walled Garden. The fun normally starts at noon on both days and continues to around 4 pm. Entry is free throughout the weekend!

The 1997 event was one of our most successful. However, the resources of the Society and the Museum were stretched because, on the Sunday in particular, there were not enough 'helpers' to supervise events. It is for this reason that we have decided to advertise National Archaeology Weekend in February. We need 20-30 volunteers over the weekend to make this a success. If you can only attend on one of the days we would still like to hear from you. No prior experience or specialist knowledge is required. We should also be able to arrange transport for helpers who require it. If you can make a firm commitment now please complete the enclosed slip.

St Helens

Parr Hall Millenium Green Project

Plans have now been submitted to the Countryside Commission by Groundwork Trust. A decision is expected towards the end of January when, if all goes well, the project can begin in earnest.

There is little documentary evidence for the existence of Parr Hall. The family of Parre, barons of Kendal, were anciently lords of the manor of Parr. Parr Hall is documented in Baines History of Lancashire, the earliest reference being 'Brian Parre died seised of the manor of Parre in 20 Henry VIII (1528) and about this time Matthew Standish laid claim for the king to the wardship of Thomas Parre and to a messuage called Parre Hall...'. There is no evidence to support the theory that the hall was the birthplace of Catherine Parr, the unfortunate Queen of Henry VIII. By the early 17th century the manor had passed into the hands of the Byrom family through the marriage of John Byrom with Margaret, widow of Thomas Parr. In 1680 the estate was held by the Orrell family of Black Brook House but there is no evidence as to how this came to be (Baines, 1870).

Documentary evidence regarding the fabric of the building is similarly sketchy. An extract from 'St Helens Newspaper' dated 1 April 1895 describes the Hall as a 17th century building and 'the oldest inhabited house in the district.' It also describes the building as having performed the various functions of 'mansion, grange, farmhouse, schoolhouse and for the last 30 years as tenements'. It is understood that there is further documentary evidence available in St. Helens Library and this will be consulted shortly.

Nothing on the ground survives today, the last vestiges of the Hall having been demolished earlier this century. However, it is expected that a dowsing exercise will be started soon with the assistance of staff and pupils from Rainford High School.

Merseyside Young Archaeologists Club - goes from strength to strength!

Since the Merseyside branch of the Young Archaeologists Club was set up in April 1996 our membership has grown to over 70 very keen young people. Our aim is to enjoy archaeology, learn about people in the past and to cover as many aspects of the subject as possible while still having fun on the way.

To date our meetings have been as diverse as a field trip to Birkenhead and Norton Pories, talking to two 'real' Roman soldiers from Legio VIII Augusta about their way of life and their armour etc. and to hold a master class on archaeological drawing. We have held numerous competitions and we now have our own regular MYAC newsletter.

Our programme for the coming year is outlined below. All indoor meetings take place at Liverpool Museum, every other month, on the last Saturday of the month. from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. There is a charge of £1 per person per meeting. If any MAS

members want to come along or they know of a young person just crying out to get involved in archaeology, just let us know and we shall do the rest!

1998 MYAC Programme

- 28 February Come and meet some Vikings!
- 25 April Shoe-box Archaeology
- 27 June Building survey at Speke Home Farm, Speke
- 29 August Visit to excavations at Poulton, Cheshire
- 31 October Field walking
- 12 December Christmas meeting - watch this space for more details!

If any of the above has wetted your appetite, keep an eye open for forthcoming details. This is not an exhaustive list and if anyone has any queries or would like more details please contact either Jo Jones, Branch Leader, 12 Dawlish Road, Irby, Wirral L61 2XP or myself, Lynn Smith, Membership Secretary, c/o Field Archaeology, Liverpool Museum. Tel 0151 478 4323 or 4257.

CBA Autumn Meeting, Woodlands, Chorley

This extremely popular event will be held on Saturday 31 October. Although the programme is not yet available, the meeting normally consists of a number of speakers, some of whom are usually from the Merseyside area, talking about recent work in archaeology. Hopefully, further details will be available in time for the next Newsletter.

If you are interested in attending and require transport please contact a Committee member at any of the forthcoming Society meetings and we shall endeavour to help you arrange a lift.

Other Events:

Liverpool University Archaeology Society

- 10 March Archaeology and The Book of Judges
Dr Daniel Block, University of Kentucky
- 17 March Wadi Fanan Survey, Jordan
Dr Phil Freeman, University of Liverpool
- 24 March Rohlover David - A Response to the Alternative Chronology
Prof. Kenneth A Kitchen, University of Liverpool

All lectures are at 4pm In The Archaeology Lecture Theatre, 14 Abercromby Square.
MAS members are welcome.

Newsletter: September 1998 (2/98)

Lecture Programme 1998/99.

- 15 October Catterick Racecourse Excavations
Rob Holbury
West Yorkshire Archaeological Society
- 19 November Early Times in South Africa
Patrick Quinney
University of Liverpool
- 3 December Christmas Party (for details see below)
- 21 January The Latest on the Wroxeter Hinterland Project
Roger White
Birmingham University
- 18 February The Kingdom of Gwynedd in the Middle Ages
David Longley
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- 18 March The Normans in Sicily
Dorothy O'Hanlon
- 15 April A.G.M followed by a lecture entitled:
Roman Merseyside
Rob Philpott
Liverpool Museum

All meetings are held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30p.m. (except for the Christmas Party). Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party will take place at the Vernon Arms in Dale Street at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 3 December. In common with previous years we shall endeavour to supply a buffet at a small cost. Although the party is primarily a social event, there will also be a short talk by Ray Cleary on Stone Circles in Britain. Further details will be announced at the autumn lectures. If you need further information contact Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802

MAS Weekend Away Spring 1999

The Committee are looking seriously at the feasibility of arranging a weekend away for MAS members, probably in the Ludlow area, sometime during Spring 1999. Ludlow and the surrounding countryside contains many sites of archaeological interest such as the hillforts and motte and bailey castles of the Welsh Marches, Norman churches and the fine medieval buildings and castle in Ludlow itself. We are expecting to finalise details and costs shortly. This is a unique opportunity for members to study, at first hand, an area of the country that is just too far for a leisurely day trip yet is rich in archaeological remains and deserves the attention that a weekend visit would allow us. We will be seeking to enlist the services of local guides and lecturers. However, in order to turn probability into reality, the event will need the support of the members of the Society. Further details will be available at forthcoming lectures. However, if you are interested and cannot attend meetings on a Thursday please contact Ken Lamb.

CBA Northwest

CBA Northwest is holding it's Autumn meeting at the Chorley Centre on Saturday 31 October. In common with previous years this will be a themed event and on this occasion there will be a number of speakers under the joint themes of 'Fire & Ritual'. This seems to be appropriate in view of the day (Halloween) but, of course, the themes can be used flexibly to enable the speakers to cover a number of wide ranging themes such as the archaeology of witch charms, burnt mounds on the Isle of Man to Celtic heads and industrial archaeology. All our members are welcome. If you are interested in attending and require transport please contact a Committee member at the October lecture meeting and we shall endeavour to help you arrange a lift. Further details can be obtained from Angela Thomas, Bolton Metro, Education and Arts, Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton BL1 1SE.

Subscriptions for 1998

Subscriptions for 1998 were due last January and a membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please complete and return it to The Membership Secretary with your subscription if you have not yet paid.

Reports:

St Helens - Bill Highcock

Parr Hall Millenium Green Project

The Parr Hall Millenium Green project which is due to be completed 31 August 2001 is just one of the 250 Millenium Greens to be set up across the country in celebration of the new millenium.

The site SJ 527962 1 mile north east of St Helens consists of three hectares of unmanaged grassland to the rear of housing in Singleton Avenue and extending down to the Sankey Canal. This area of land was the site of Parr Hall and the demesne land that lay to the south west of the hall has been designated by the local authority as a 'Site of Community Wildlife Interest' with wetland habitats that are comparatively rare in the St. Helens area.

The project aims to protect and enhance the area as a recreational resource for the benefit of the local people. It will also provide an outdoor learning centre for local schools and colleges whilst conserving and protecting the site as a wilfdlife habitat. Awareness of the site will be advertised via interpretation boards and promotional activities.

The schools have been particularly interested in the historic links that the site has with a collateral branch of the family of Queen Catherine Parr and they are interested in developing this aspect of the site history. They are also keen to re-establish the boundaries of the hall at ground level with either a low hedge or some other indicator sympathetic to the site. There is the possibility that school packs will be produced covering the history, industrial archaeology and ecology of the area.

A significant proportion of the required finance has already been secured. Detailed plans and the business plan have now been drawn up. The Trust deeds under which the Green will operate have also been finalised and signed by those concerned. Once they have been vetted by the Countryside Commission they will be passed on to the Charity Commission to obtain charitable status.

Sankey Now River Initiative

A feasibility study is being carried out to ascertain the cost of excavating the sankey Canal from Newton Lock to Bradley Lock with the aim of making a funding application. If carried out it would restore the scene featured in well known early prints of the first inter-city railway crossing the first canal of the industrial era.

Sankey Canal Restoration Society (SCARS)

Work on the by-wash at Hulme Lock has now been completed. A working party has been clearing the area of the lock keeper's cottage to expose the foundations with a view to making them a feature of the site.

Hale - Dave Roberts

Some of you may be wondering why there has been little (yes, even less than before) news of progress in Hale in recent months. This is because I have been undertaking most archaeologists least favourite task, the writing up. Although behind schedule, work is now well underway on the documentary aspects of the report and a first draft of this section is expected shortly.

National Heritage Weekend

Those of you who received a Newsletter earlier this year will be aware the Society provided helpers for National Heritage weekend at Norton Priory Museum on 12/13 September. The event was well attended with just over 200 people arriving on the Saturday and twice as many on Sunday to enjoy activities such as spinning, corn grinding and felt making. Thanks to all of you who gave up a few hours to help and make the weekend a great success.

After the fieldwork is over

In common with previous years the Department of Continuing Education is running a course in collaboration with the MAS and, this year, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. The title of the course is 'After the fieldwork is over' and using material collected during recent fieldwork programmes, students will be introduced to various aspects of 'post excavation' work and encouraged to produce a report on a particular aspect of a site. The course runs from 28 September for 10 weeks and the fee for MAS members is £28-50. Further details from Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7ZG. Tel: 0151 794 6900.

Other Courses

Liverpool

Religion in Ancient Egypt - Mr Donald Lowle
10 meetings from 29 September

Anthropology for Archaeologists - Dr Anthony Sinclair & Ms Jane Moore
10 meetings from 29 September

Tutankhamun: Pharaoh of Egypt - Mr Donald Lowle
10 meetings from 29 September

Iron Age Communities in Britain from 6th to 1st Centuries BC - Dr Zosia Archibald
10 meetings from 29 September

Learning About Lithics - Ms Sue Andresen & Ms Jane Hallos
10 meetings from 30 September

Illustrating for Archaeologists - Mr John-Gordon Swogger
10 meetings from 30 September

The History, Art and Archaeology of the Persian Empire 600-331 BC - Mr Martin Charlesworth
10 meetings from 30 September

Heroes? Villains? or Misunderstood? An Examination of Some Great Figures from Antiquity
Mr Eddie Gaskell
10 meetings from 18 January

Roman Britain - Dr Zosia Archibald
10 meetings from 12 January

Tutankhamun: Pharaoh of Egypt - Mr Donald Lowle
10 meetings from 19 January

Religion in Ancient Egypt - Mr Donald Lowle
10 meetings from 19 January

Developing Skills in Archaeological Illustration - Mr John-Gordon Swogger
10 meetings from 20 January

The History and Archaeology of Mesopotamia c3500 - 911 BC - Mr Martin Charlesworth
10 meetings from 20 January

Day School

'Built by Edward Norris ANO 1598': A Study of the History of Speke Hall - specialist speakers.
Saturday 10 October in Liverpool and 17 October at Speke Hall (course fee covers admission to Speke Hall, including some areas not normally open to the public)

Archaeological Excavation

2 week non-residential course. Summer 1999. Dates and location to be arranged. Advance enrolment essential.

Bebington

Tutankhamun: Pharaoh of Egypt - Dr D. Downes
10 meetings from 29 September

The Rediscovery of Ancient Egypt - Dr D. Downes
10 meetings from 19 January

Heswall

Medieval Cheshire: The Norman Conquest to the Reformation - Dr J T Driver
20 meetings from 6 October

Wallasey

Tutankhamun: Pharaoh of Egypt - Dr D. Downes
10 meetings from 28 September

The Rediscovery of Ancient Egypt - Dr D. Downes
10 meetings from 18 January

Croston

Life in a Roman Province - Mrs Vita Hall
10 meetings from 28 September

Roman Britain - Mrs Vita Hall
10 meetings from 11 January

Ormskirk

The Archaeology of Medieval Landscapes - Dr Jennifer Lewis
10 meetings from 29 September

Runcorn

Day School at Norton Priory, Runcorn

What Happened After the Dissolution? - specialist speakers
24/25 July. Advance enrolment essential

Residential Course

Palaeolithics and Later Hunters and Foragers in the Welsh Marches - Dr John
Gowlett
Residential weekend Summer 1999

Further details of all the above courses from Centre for Continuing Education,
The University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7ZG. Tel: 0151
794 6900.

Degree and Certificate Courses

The University of Liverpool are also offering courses which lead to a
Certificate in Higher Education (Archaeological Studies) and a Diploma
(Archaeological Studies). From October 1998 the University is also offering part
time degree courses in Combined Honours Arts & SES. Further details regarding
these courses can be obtained from The Secretary, The School of Archaeology,
Classics and Oriental Studies, Hartley Building, Brownlow Street, University
Precinct, Liverpool. Tel: 0151 794 5044.

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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To: Miss M.M. Byrne, 7 Oakland Road, Aigburth Liverpool L19 9DU

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etc:£5.00

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Lecture Programme for 1999

- 18 March *'The Normans in Sicily'*
Dorothy O'Hanlon
- 15 April AGM followed by lecture entitled: *'Roman Merseyside'*
Rob Philpott
Liverpool Museum
- 16 September *'The Mesolithic in Cheshire'*
Anthony Sinclair
Liverpool University
- 21 October *'The Vikings in the Hebrides'*
Michael Pearson
University of Sheffield
- 18 November *'Bronze Age life in West Cumbria'*
Jamie Quartermaine
University of Lancaster
- December Christmas Party TBA

The March and April meetings only are to be held at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool at 7.30p.m. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee. Please see information elsewhere in the Newsletter regarding the Autumn lecture programme.

Field Trip Programme for Summer 1999

- 15 May *'Roman Lancashire: Ribchester to Lancaster'*
Peter McCrone
Lancashire County Council
- 19 June *'Woodland Industry in South Lakeland'*
John Hodgson
Lakelands National Park
- 17 July *'Alderley Edge Project'*
Jeremy Milne
Alderley edge Project
- 21 August *'Excavations at Gardom's Edge near Malham'*
John McIlwaine
University of Bradford

Further details will be announced at forthcoming lectures and via a Newsletter in the Spring.

MAS Lecture facilities

As many of you are aware the Society has enjoyed a long and happy association with Liverpool Museum. Sadly, from this Summer, the Museum will be unable to offer the Society the lecture room facilities that it currently enjoys at William Brown Street due to the onset of major building work, which is not due to be finished until 2001, to extend and renew the premises. The Committee are currently considering offers of alternative accomodation which includes other buildings within the estate of Liverpool Museum. Further details will be announced at forthcoming lectures and via the Newsletter.

Lecture Programme

Those members who attend our monthly lectures on a regular basis will be aware that the Society has recently been let down on a small number of occasions by our guest speakers. There is usually a good reason for non-appearance and cancellations are often made at the last minute. Whilst we make every effort to adhere to our advertised programme, the Committee cannot be held responsible if a speaker is not able to attend. The Events Secretary goes to great lengths to find a replacement under such circumstances and our thanks should go to him for his efforts.

Reports

St Helens - Bill Highcock

Parr Hall Millenium Green Project

Parr Hall Millennium Green Trust is now a registered charity.

Bill has located a former tenant farmer of Parr Hall farm who is in possession of some old photographs of the farm. Bill is trying to obtain permission to copy them.

Sankey Canal Restoration Society

Further resoration work has been carried out at Bewsey Lock and Hulme Lock.

Newton Heritage

Bill has joined this Group and will inform MAS of any matters of an archaeological nature which are brought to his attention.

Hale – Dave Roberts

Work continues on writing up the Medieval aspects of the Hale report. The latest forecast for a first draft is the end of April.

The Newsletter

Regular readers will have noticed that the Newsletter is often short of one thing – **news!** This edition is particularly sparse and if it was not for Bill's regular contributions there would be nothing to report. The Society try to issue a Newsletter 3 times a year but it becomes more difficult (particularly for the editor who has to fill up the empty space between the lecture programme and the night school advertisements) if there is little to write about. The Newsletter is open to all members of the Society and the editor is willing to include (practically) anything which is of archaeological interest, be it a report of a site you have visited, a book review or even what you thought of last week's episode of Time Team, Meet the Ancestors etc. The next Newsletter is scheduled for the Spring and any contributions (by 31 March please) would be most welcome. Please send articles etc. to Dave Roberts, 16 Ranelagh Drive South, Garston Liverpool L19 9DR.

MAS Weekend Away Spring 1999

The Society have booked the Bishop Maskell Centre in Ludlow for an MAS weekend away on 24/25 April. There has been strong interest from within the Society and available places are nearly all taken. If you have indicated to Ken that you wish to attend and have not yet paid the full amount, Ken requires the money by mid March at the latest. In addition if you have booked and you either require or can offer a lift in a car, again please let Ken know. For those of you who are still undecided there are still a few places left. Ludlow and the surrounding countryside contains many sites of archaeological interest such as the hillforts and motte and bailey castles of the Welsh Marches, Norman churches and the fine medieval buildings and castle in Ludlow itself. This is a unique opportunity for members to study, at first hand, an area of the country that is just too far for a leisurely day trip yet is rich in archaeological remains and deserves the attention that a weekend visit would allow us.

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Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 2/1999

Subscriptions for 1999

A final reminder that 1999 subscriptions were due last January and a membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please complete and return it to The Membership Secretary with your subscription if you have not yet paid.

Lecture Programme for 1999

- 16 September *'The Mesolithic in Cheshire'*
Anthony Sinclair
Liverpool University
- 21 October *'The Vikings in the Hebrides'*
Michael Pearson
University of Sheffield
- 18 November *'Bronze Age life in West Cumbria'*
Jamie Quartermaine
University of Lancaster
- December Christmas Party TBA

N.B. Meetings, except the Christmas Party, are to be held in the **Lecture Theatre, Room 1.13 at the University of Liverpool, Centre for Continuing Education, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool** at 7.30p.m. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee. See below for further details (inc. map).

Field Trip Programme for Summer 1999

There are a few places left on the following trips:

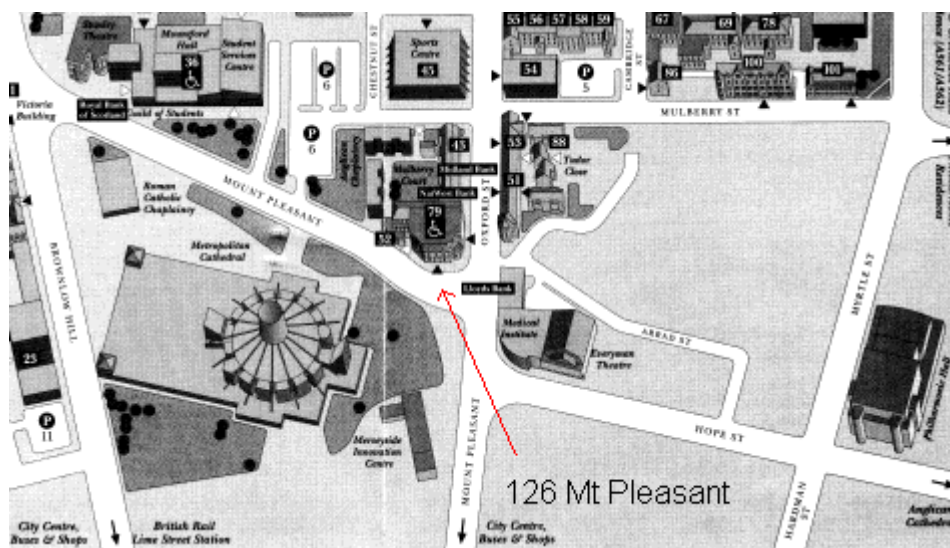
- 17 July *'Alderley Edge Project'*
 Jeremy Milne
 Alderley Edge Project
- 21 August *'Excavations at Gardom's Edge near Malham'*
 John McIlwaine
 University of Bradford

Please contact Ken Lamb for further details. Tel: 017048 71802

MAS Lecture facilities

As many of you are aware the Society has enjoyed a long and happy association with Liverpool Museum. Sadly, from this Summer, the Museum will be unable to offer the Society the lecture room facilities that it currently enjoys at William Brown Street due to the onset of major building work, which is not due to be finished until 2001, to extend and renew the premises. The University have, however, come to our rescue and offered us (for a small fee) the use of the lecture theatre at 126 Mount Pleasant. The building is situated at the junction of Oxford Street and Mount Pleasant and has evening parking facilities nearby. There is also a coffee lounge in the basement of the building selling light refreshments and beverages from 6.00-8.30 pm. For anyone requiring a meal before the lecture, the Everyman Bistro is just across the road and there is a more extensive range of eateries in Hardman Street, a short walk away.

I would, however, stress that lectures will start at 7.30 pm prompt as we must vacate the building by 9 pm.



Pilot Scheme for the Voluntary recording of archaeological finds

Every year in Britain thousands of objects are discovered by members of the public. Most are unearthed by people using metal detectors but chance finds are also made by those out walking or digging in their gardens. Much of this material is potentially of great importance to our understanding of the past yet, until recently, archaeologists were only ever seeing a small percentage of these finds, the vast majority were never recorded. In response to growing concern from the archaeological community, the Government, through the Dept. of Culture, Media & Sport, has instituted a pilot study into the national recording of all archaeological finds made by the public. Initially, six regional centres were chosen for the pilot study, the North West being one. The work in the North West is being co-ordinated by the Antiquities Department at Liverpool Museum and a new post has been created especially for this. The fact that the scheme is directly funded by central government is itself a measure of the value placed on this important archaeological resource.

The origins of the scheme are closely linked to the 1996 Treasure Act, which is an overhaul of the old Treasure Trove procedure, but unlike the reporting of 'treasure' finds (which is a statutory requirement), the reporting of other, non-treasure, items is purely voluntary. As the majority of archaeological finds are made by metal detector users, Nick Herepath, the specially appointed Finds Liaison Officer for the North West, has been working closely with detector users in the region since his appointment in September 1997. As detector users from the North West travel and detect widely, it is important that material they find outside our region is also recorded. For a find to be of optimum value for study by both present and future archaeologists it is also important that the precise find location is recorded. The information gathered will then be included in the relevant Sites & Monuments Record. Not all archaeological finds of interest are metal however. It is hoped the study will also attract other material found by the public and detector users including pottery and stone objects such as prehistoric flint tools.

The pilot scheme is due to run until March 2000 and recently a further five Finds Liaison Officers were appointed to the scheme which means that nearly half of England and the whole of Wales is now covered by the pilot study. The results of the first year have been impressive with around 15,000 new finds being recorded by the scheme as a whole. It is hoped that after March 2000 funding will be made available to enable the scheme to expand to cover the whole of England and Wales.

If you wish to find out more about the recording scheme please contact :

Nick Herepath, Finds Liaison Officer, Liverpool Museum. Tel: 0151 478 4259, Fax: 0151 478 4390, *e-mail*: nick@nmgmaeant.demon.co.uk

portable antiquities website at: www.finds.org.uk

Opportunities to Dig

Many members, not just those joining the M.A.S. for the first time, ask the question “How can I get involved on an archaeological dig?” The Society publicises local opportunities (e.g. Liverpool University’s teaching excavations), but it isn’t easy to come by information on other parts of the country.

With this mailing you will find information taken from a supplement recently published by *Current Archaeology*, listing over 60 sites throughout Britain where you can take part in an excavation. Training ranges from none through informal to opportunities where CATS certificates can be obtained, and fees range from nothing to over £100 week. The experience required for the different digs varies from the absolute beginner to the experienced amateur archaeologist.

If you are interested in any of the excavations, an outline CV detailing your experience and/or interest would be helpful to the organisers, and don’t forget to enclose a stamped addressed envelope. It is the practice where an excavation is run by a local society to become a member.

The editor of *Current Archaeology* kindly gave permission to us to reproduce the summary pages from the *Touching the Past* supplement for members’ information. If you are not acquainted with *Current Archaeology*, it is a magazine that has been coming out six times a year since 1967. It contains articles on excavations and research projects (mainly in this country), book reviews, news features, and letters. It is available by paying an annual subscription of £15, including postage; the address to write to is 9 Nassington Road, London, NW3 2TX, or you can ring 0171 435 7517, or visit the Web site at www.archaeology.co.uk.

Ken Lamb

National Archaeology Days – Liverpool Museum

Liverpool Museum will once again be celebrating National Archaeology Days on 24 and 25 July.

Our chosen theme is ‘Reconstructing the Past’, and we have a variety of activities planned. They include finding out how people used plants to dye clothes and other fabrics, using archaeological plans to discover about past places and buildings, and looking at metal archaeological objects to see what clues they can give us about the people that used them. We will have a Viking couple in costume demonstrating how plants were used to dye clothes and the Merseyside Young Archaeologists will have a display of their ‘Reconstructing the Past’ competition entries and winners.

As ever we are keen to include members of the MAS in assisting when running some of the activities. Anyone who is willing to volunteer to help during this weekend should contact Lynn Smith, Public Programme Officer, Education and Public Programme Department, Liverpool Museum. Tel: 0151 478 4257

I look forward to hearing from you.

Even if you aren't able to help out, please do come along and enjoy the fun!

Lynn Smith
Public Programme Officer, Liverpool Museum
And Merseyside Young Archaeologists Club Membership Secretary

Heritage Weekend – Norton Priory

As many of you are aware, the Society has over the last few years made its contribution to National Archaeology Weekend by staging a joint event with Norton Priory Museum Trust in Runcorn. This year it will take place at Norton Priory over the weekend of 11-12 September. During the two days we try and conduct an exciting programme of activities for all the family to enjoy. These have included in the past a guided walk, Medieval Tile Making, spinning and heraldry. Visitors are also encouraged to enjoy the atmosphere while strolling through the museum grounds or the award-winning Walled Garden. The fun normally starts at noon on both days and continues to around 4 pm. Entry is free throughout the weekend!

The 1998 event was one of our most successful. We need 20-30 volunteers over the weekend to make this a success. If you can only attend on one of the days we would still like to hear from you. No prior experience or specialist knowledge is required. We should also be able to arrange transport for helpers who require it. If you can make a firm commitment now please complete the enclosed slip.

Reports

St Helens - Bill Highcock

Parr Hall Millennium Green Project

Work is due to start on the site on 5 July.

Sankey Canal Restoration Society

The Bread Oven has been identified by one of our members, a master baker by profession, as a faggot oven ie fired with wood. These were quite common in the past, especially in isolated communities.

The trip boat, St Helen, has been removed to Fidlers Ferry Marina for restoration.

Newton Heritage

The memorial to Huskisson, who died as a result of an accident at the opening of the Liverpool-Manchester railway in 1830, was rather badly vandalised some time ago. A replica of the memorial is to be mounted near the site of the accident. The refurbished original monument will be offered to one of Liverpool, York or Manchester Museums. I have suggested that we should try to ensure that it comes to Liverpool.

I'm glad to say that consent has been given for the commencement of clean-up work on the Sutton Brook in the Jackson street area. The job has gone out to tender, to be carried out 2001/2002. This will help to provide cleaner water for the canal.

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

National Archaeology Days

I confirm that I am willing to take part in the above event. I shall be available to assist on Saturday 11 September/ Sunday 12 September (please delete as appropriate).

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone.....

Please return this slip to:
Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon, 2 Dale Mews, Gateacre, Liverpool L25 2SN



MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 3/1999

Lecture Programme for 1999/2000

- 21 October *'The Vikings in the Hebrides'*
Michael Pearson
University of Sheffield
- 18 November *'Bronze Age life in West Cumbria'*
Jamie Quartermaine
University of Lancaster
- 2 December Christmas Party (see below)
- 20 January *'Pistiris: A pre-Roman Iron Age river port in Thrace'*
Zosia Archibald
University of Liverpool
- 17 February *'Ugarit: A late Bronze Age Liverpool in Syria'*
Allan Millard
University of Liverpool
- 16 March *'Application of Raman Spectroscopy in Archaeology'*
Howell Edwards
University of Bradford
- 20 April AGM
followed by a lecture (as yet untitled) by Dave Roberts
Merseyside Archaeology Society

N.B. Meetings, except the Christmas Party, are to be held in the **Lecture Theatre, Room 1.13 at the University of Liverpool, Centre for Continuing Education, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool** at 7.30p.m. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trip Programme for Summer 2000

- 13 May *'Conwy: Town and Castle'*
David Longley
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- 24 June *'Lords and Castles in the Welsh Marches (inc. Clun, Bishops Castle and Montgomery)'*
Mike Stokes
Shrewsbury Museum Services
- 15 July *'Beverley and Hull'*
Martin Foreman
Humberside Archaeological Services
- 19 August *'Bersham and Minera'*
Stephen Greuter
Wrexham Museum

Bookings for these trips will be taken next year but make a note of the dates in your diary. Please contact Ken Lamb for further details. Tel: 017048 71802

MAS Lecture facilities

As you are aware the Society has had to move the Thursday evening lectures to the University of Liverpool, Centre for Continuing Education, due to the onset of building work at Liverpool Museum. Can I stress that due to the fact that we must vacate the building by 9 pm that lectures will commence promptly at 7.30 pm.

Christmas Party

This years Christmas Party will take place at the Hogshead Pub in North John Street on Thursday 2nd December, starting at 7.30 pm. We have been promised a private room with its own bar and toilet facilities. The room is situated on the first floor and has lift access. A buffet will be available at £4 per head. As 'regulars' are aware the Christmas party is primarily a social occasion but we also try to include a short lecture from a member of the Society. This year Edmund Godfrey has kindly agreed to tell us about his Time Team experience at Flag Fen. Tickets will be on sale at the October and November lectures and can also be obtained by completing the tear-off slip and returning it to Ken at the given address.

Reports

Duttons Farm, Lathom, West Lancashire 1998-99

R.W Cowell

This site was recognised in the autumn of 1998 when staff from Liverpool Museum were invited to give advice on the importance of archaeological finds that had been discovered by members of the Lathom and District Historic Society on land affected by a Transco gas pipeline on Duttons Farm, Lathom, West Lancashire. The finds included a late prehistoric/ Romano British quernstone, sherds of mortarium, samian, and sandy wares, mainly of 2nd century AD date from disturbed contexts along the pipeline easement, which also produced a number of undated ditches, gulleys and small pits. This suggested a potentially important Romano British site lay in the vicinity of the pipe line. Subsequently, further work was conducted in the adjacent field with members of the Lathom Society. This involved a staged approach between October 1998 and July 1999, comprising a fieldwalking survey, a geophysical survey and an evaluation excavation, the latter run as a training excavation in conjunction with Liverpool University.

The fieldwalking survey produced a thin distribution of prehistoric struck flint across the field, with particular small concentrations around a small channel running towards the River Tawd, which may be a former spring, and along the ridge marking the edge of the flood plain. Dating is difficult as there are no particularly diagnostic pieces, but it is suggested that most may be early prehistoric. The field also produced one of the largest surface collections of *potential* Romano-British pottery in the region, with material spread across most of the study area.

Late medieval pottery was less extensive but occurred in four reasonably well defined small concentrations, mostly adjacent to the modern road. This could represent dumping of rubbish on the fields but the patterning of these scatters could imply that they relate to buildings along the road. If so, then the extent to which they may represent settlement drift or even a small hamlet is an extremely significant question.

The excavations during June and July were intended to test the interpretation of some of the surface material. Four trenches of c.100m² were excavated. A trench close to the modern road produced some traces of activity that may have been associated with the medieval period although the trench was too narrow to be able to understand this well.

The main results came from two trenches that produced late prehistoric and Romano British evidence. A trench on the slightly higher part of the field produced a hollow way or track that may have been part of an early field system. This was back filled during the 2nd century AD. Finds from the backfilling of the trackway suggest an important Romanised building lay in the vicinity.

About 150m to the west, a trench was placed adjacent to where the quernstone had been found. Here, the incomplete circuit of the footings for the wall of a probable roundhouse were located, comprising a length of curving gully with entrance on the east. In the centre of the circle was a large post hole which contained stone packing around a socket for the centre post. Enough of the circuit was retrieved to show that

the curve of the gulley was equidistant from the post, giving a diameter of c.10.6m for the structure. Set around the inside edge of the wall gulley were a number of post holes and stake holes which probably formed part of the frame for the wall. It is probable that the circular building had a straw, conical roof with timber and clay daub walls.

Dating of the building is not clear. No finds came from the excavation of the house. On form alone it should date to somewhere within the period of the Iron age (after c.700 BC) or perhaps within the early centuries of the Romano British period. This is the same period covered by the use of beehive querns, the type which came from the Transco pipeline in the vicinity of the house. The lack of Romano British finds from the roundhouse, which were found in the other trench on the site, might suggest a prehistoric rather than Romano British date, but confirmation will have to await C14 dates.

In the centre of the roundhouse were four large posts covering an area c.2m by 2.5m suggesting a structure that stratigraphically is earlier than the roundhouse. Four posts are usually associated with the storage of grain and are found on many late prehistoric sites and early Romano British ones. The thick, deeply set posts are thought to have carried a raised floor perhaps to keep damp at bay.

It is hoped that more work can be done on the site in future years as it appears as if it includes evidence with potential for several important areas of research for the region, with perhaps a key one relating to an understanding of what changes, if any, might have taken place in the settlement pattern and agricultural landscape after the imposition of Roman rule.

Advertising the MAS

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a fly-sheet advertising the 1999/2000 lecture programme for the Society. Each year we try to attract new members to the Society and in the past we have had a good response when we advertise in this way. I would be grateful if you could display the poster in a public place eg notice board in a place of work, library etc.

Booking form for MAS Christmas Party at The Hogshead in North John Street on Thursday 2nd December 1999 at 7.30 pm.

Name.....

Address.....

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Please send me tickets for the Christmas Party. I enclose £4 per person to cover the cost of the buffet. Please state your requirements below if you wish to have a vegetarian meal(s).

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Please return this slip to Ken Lamb, 20 Osborne Road, Formby, Merseydide L37 6AR. Tel: 017048 71802

