



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 1/2000

Subscriptions for 2000

Subscriptions for 2000 are now due 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 2000

- 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 entitled *'The South Liverpool of Ronald Stewart-Brown'*
Dave Roberts
Merseyside Archaeology Society
- 21 September *'English Spa Towns'*
David Lloyd
University of Birmingham
- 19 October *'Castell Henllys'*
Harold Mytum
University of York

16 November *'Persepolis: Capital of the Persian Empire'*
Martin Charlesworth
University of Liverpool

7 December Christmas Party including a lecture

N.B. Meetings (except for 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 shortly but make a note of the dates in your diary. Please contact Ken Lamb for further details. Tel: 017048 71802.

Please ensure that that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear when participating in events organised by the Society. Please note that the Society cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or injury incurred on the group's activities.

MAS Millennium Celebration

SATURDAY 5th FEBRUARY is MAS CEILIDH Night!!!

with The Liverpool Country Dance Band

*** Dancing * Bar * Food * Raffle***

We have been discussing whether to have a 'Millennium Project' and settled on starting off the year with a ceilidh, as a means of having some fun and getting a bit of exercise following the recent 'party season'. The details:

Saturday 5th February from 7.30pm until midnight at St Anthony of Padua Parish Hall, Queen's Drive, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18.

Tickets are £6.50 (£4.50 concessions).

This is on bus routes 68, 107, 168 and 207 and is about 10 minutes walk from Mossley Hill railway station. It also has its own car park.

As well as the opportunity to try out traditional folk dances, the ticket price includes a supper, consisting of hot pot and pickles followed by apple pie and fresh cream. Excellent value!

If you've been to any barn dances before you will know how enjoyable they are. If this will be your first, there is no need to be apprehensive - NO previous experience is necessary - the caller issues full instructions before each dance and calls out instructions during the dance as well. Please come along and help make this a successful evening.

Tickets (£6.50 and £4.50) will be on sale at the MAS lecture on Thursday 20 January. Alternatively, they can be bought in advance by returning the form below, or contacting Nancy Jenkins (Tel 733 9839) or other members of the Council. If you want to purchase tickets on the night, it is very important that you let Nancy know, so that she can give accurate numbers to the caterers.

Note: Donations of raffle prizes would be welcomed - just bring something along on the night.

See you on the dance floor!

Archaeology for All on the Web

Has Father Christmas brought you a personal computer and modem? Are you now poised to explore the Internet. If so, there is an enormous amount of archaeological information on the Web. This ranges from site specific topics to guides on good practice or details of forthcoming excavations and courses. In addition to these, there are excellent pages published by the Universities; some of these include information about current research and excavations.

As a first port of call it is worth looking at the Council for British Archaeology's pages and links. Access the Council's Home Page at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk> and

explore the topics which are offered. These include information about National Archaeology Days and Archaeology Abroad as well as information about excavations, conferences, day schools and courses. Current Archaeology has a page at <http://www.archaeology.co.uk>

A number of other Web sites list fieldwork opportunities both in Britain and overseas. Current Archaeology's pages can be found at:

<http://www.compulink.co.uk/~archaeology/digs.htm> European Archaeological Research Project excavation opportunities are lists on a database at <http://azalait.cilea.it/archeosite>. Summer camps available through the European Forum of Heritage Associations are cited through the Council for British Archaeology's pages at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/forum/camps.html> Two other pages you might try are ArchaeologLogic Communications fieldwork links at http://archaeologic.com_projects.htm and those of the Archaeological Fieldwork Server at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/iaa/cgi-bin/show-opps.pl>

Closer to home why not look at the archaeology pages published by the School of Archaeology, Classics and Oriental Studies at Liverpool University. These include information about the School's undergraduate and post-graduate courses, fieldwork and research and full details of all Continuing Education courses. The home page can be found at http://www.liv.ac.uk/Archaeology_Classics To access other University pages, follow a similar format *i.e.* start with <http://www>. then the name or abbreviated name of the University e.g. [bhm.ac.uk/aha](http://www.bhm.ac.uk/aha) or [nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology) or [le.ac.uk/archaeology](http://www.le.ac.uk/archaeology) etc. etc.

English Heritage has pages at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk> (though these failed to open when I checked just before Christmas!). Historic Scotland's site is at <http://historic-scotland.gov.uk/live-root-historic/sw-frame.htm> CADW's site, if it exists, has remained elusive.

The Museums and Galleries Commission has a new web site at <http://www.cornucopia.org.uk>

Perhaps you would like to know about new and second hand archaeological publications. Why not contact:

Oxbow Books in Oxford at <http://www.oxbowbooks.com>

Castle Bookshop at <http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/town/square/fe63>

TempusPublishing is at <http://www.tempus-publishing.com>

Heritage Archaeological Books at <http://www.heritageweb.com/system/index.html>

There is an on-line journal at <http://intarch.ac.uk>

Finally have you ever wondered about the administration and structure of the professional units? Check out a couple at <http://bufau.bham.ac.uk/> or <http://www.nottingham/archaeology/contact/htm>

Have fun! But remember a couple of things. First, you must type in the addresses exactly with full stops, slashes etc. in the right place. Secondly, computer viruses are rife. If you download anything at all from the Web to your own computer, run a VirusScan before opening the file.

Jen Lewis
School of Archaeology, Classics & Oriental Studies
The University of Liverpool

PS Our Continuing Education teaching excavation will run for four weeks starting on 5 June 2000. Check out the Web page for details!

Newsletter editor's comment: If you are aware of any Archaeological WEB sites not mentioned here and feel they may be of interest to others please drop me a line or send an e-mail to dave@jroberts8.freeserve.co.uk .

Courses in Archaeology

Courses in Liverpool

Human Influences on the British Landscape	Dr Jennifer Lewis	15 meetings from Monday 17 January
Man - The Hunter	Ms Sue Andresen & Ms Jane Hallos	10 meetings from Monday 24 January
Later Iron-Age and Romano-British Communities	Miss Dorothy O'Hanlon	10 meetings from Tuesday 25 January
Pyramids of the Pharaohs	Mr Donald Lowle	10 meetings from Tuesday 11 January
The Art and Archaeology of Iran from the Neolithic to the Persian Empire (c.12,000 - 600 BC)	Mr Martin Charlesworth	10 meetings from Wednesday 26 January
Archaeology of the Bible	Dr Paul Lawrence	10 meetings from Thursday 20 January
Egyptian Hieroglyphs	Dr Penny Wilson	Sat-Sun 20-21 May, 3-4 June

Courses outside Liverpool

Neston

Medieval Buildings, Society and Landscape	Mrs Elizabeth Davey	10 meetings from Wednesday 12 January
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Croston

Looking at Medieval Landscapes	Dr Mary Higham	10 meetings from Monday 24 January
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Skelmersdale

Living in Roman Britain	Mrs Vita Hall	10 meetings from Monday 25 January
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Chester

Exploring Ancient Egypt	Mr Donald Lowle	10 meetings from Thursday 13 January
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Norton Priory, Runcorn

What Happened after the Dissolution? The Story of St Christopher of Norton Priory	Specialist Speakers	Sat/Sun: 8-9 April
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Further information from: Lesley Crombie, Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7QG. Tel: 0151 794 6952/6900

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - CEILIDH - 5 FEBRUARY 2000

Name:
Address:
.....
.....
Tel:

Please send me ceilidh tickets.
I enclose a cheque* for together with a stamped, addressed envelope.
**(payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)*

**Please send to: Nancy Jenkins, 17 Winchfield Rd, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 5BU
TO REACH HER BEFORE WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY**

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2000 Subscription Form

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

I enclose my subscription for 2000 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

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

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Ordinary : £10.00 Junior: £2.00 Family : £12.00
Institutional : £15.00 Concessions:£5.00



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 2/2000

Lecture Programme for 2000

- 21 September *'English Spa Towns'*
David Lloyd
University of Birmingham
- 19 October *'Castell Henllys'*
Harold Mytum
University of York
- 16 November *'Persepolis: Capital of the Persian Empire'*
Martin Charlesworth
University of Liverpool
- 7 December Christmas Party including a lecture

N.B. Meetings (except for 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

- 15 July *'Beverley and Hull'*
Martin Foreman
Humberside Archaeological Services
- 19 August *'Bersham and Minera'*
Stephen Greuter
Wrexham Museum

Bookings for the two remaining field trips are now being taken. If you wish to attend please complete the attached booking form. If you require further details please contact Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802.

Please ensure that that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear when participating in events organised by the Society. Please note that the Society cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or injury incurred on the group's activities.

Excavations at Lathom

An evening visit has been arranged to see the archaeological excavation at Lathom, near Ormskirk, which is being carried out by the Field Archaeology Section, Liverpool Museum and the Department of Archaeology, Liverpool University.

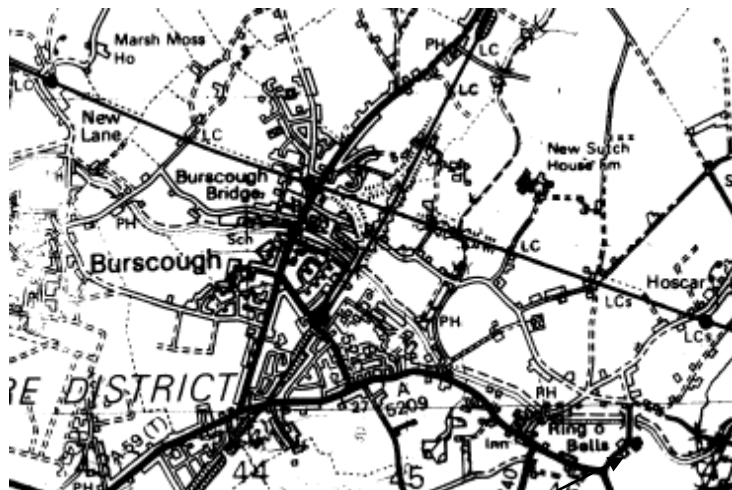
A conducted tour has been arranged for Thursday 6th July starting at 7.00 p.m.

The maps below show the site of the excavation at DUTTONS FARM. The best approach to the site is from the A5209. If driving from Burscough, take the next left turn, after passing the right turn for the B5240. If driving from Newburgh, take the next right turn after crossing the River Tawd, west of Newburgh.

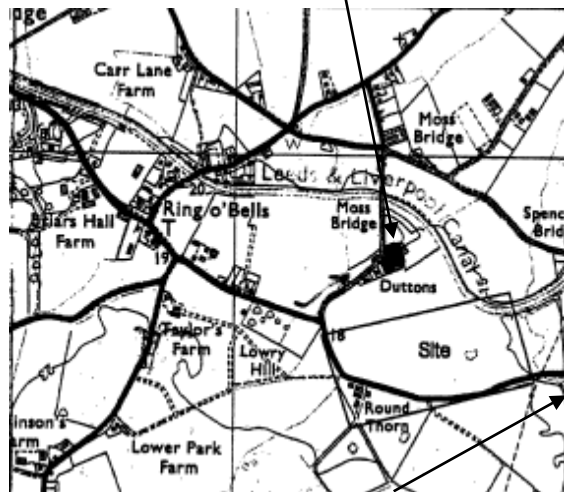
Dutton's Farm (not signed) is situated about 200 yards from the turn off the A5209, on the right side of a left hand bend (the road continues on to, and over, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Moss Bridge No: 35). The entrance to the farmyard is through a large, white double-barred gate supported by brick pillars.

There is parking space for not more than 12 cars in the car park - so car pool where possible. If anyone needs or can offer lift(s) please contact Barry Faulkner. Tel: 0151 494 9809

The grid reference for Dutton's Farm on OS Landranger (1:50,000) Map 108 is 465107.



Dutton's Farm



Subscriptions for 2000

Subscriptions for 2000 were due in January. If a subscription form is included with this Newsletter it means that the Membership Secretary does not have a record of having received your membership subscription for this year. She looks forward to hearing from you shortly.

National Heritage Day – Norton Priory

As many of you are aware, the Society has over the last few years made its contribution to, what was formerly, National Archaeology Weekend by staging a joint event with Norton Priory Museum Trust in Runcorn. This year it will take place at Norton Priory on one day only on 16 September. During this event 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 and continues to around 4 pm. Entry to the site is free.

The 1999 event was one of our most successful. We need 20-30 volunteers to make the day a success. 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 and we shall let you know the final arrangements when they are made.

Weekend at Hadrian's Wall

An MAS weekend residential course, covering aspects of the archaeology and history of the construction and occupation of Hadrian's wall has been arranged to run from the evening of Friday 8th September to the afternoon of Sunday 10th September 2000 at the Hadrian's Wall Residential Study Centre (newly opened in Spring 1999), Birdoswald Roman Fort, Gilsland, near Carlisle.

The course programme includes lectures by archaeologists and historians specialising in Hadrian's Wall studies; guided tours of archaeological sites; museum visits; and for lighter relief a dramatic presentation of the life and equipment of a Roman soldier serving on the wall.

All meals will be taken at the Study Centre. Accommodation consists of seven bedrooms, some ground floor and some first floor, of various sizes, containing bunk beds. Two of the bedrooms sleep eight people, two sleep six, two sleep four and one sleeps three. The room sleeping three has an en suite shower room, all the others have their own individual shower room near to the bedroom. A shower room consists of a toilet, wash hand basin and shower. Most people will be allocated to single sex bedrooms. However, specific requests from individuals or couples, for separate accommodation will be met where possible.

The cost of this course is £75.00 per person for full board and the main course programme (there will be additional entry charges for some sites).

In order that all arrangements with the Study Centre can be confirmed by their booking deadline, please book your place on this course by Friday 19th August, 2000. You will then be sent a course information pack.

Booking Form: Hadrian's Wall Weekend 8th-10th September 2000

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

.....

.....**Post Code:**.....

Telephone Number.....

Room Allocation: Any special requirements of couples or individuals?.....

.....

.....

Catering Arrangements: Vegetarian.....

Vegan.....

Other special diets or requirements.....

Travel:

You are expected to make your own way to the Study Centre (a map will be sent in due course)

- a) If you are driving to the Study Centre can you offer a lift to anyone?
- b) Do you require a lift to the Study Centre?
- c) Do you require information regarding public transport?

Cost: The cost per person is £75.00

Number of persons:.....

Payment enclosed:.....

Please make your cheque payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society, and send it with this form to:

Barry M. Faulkner,
MAS Hon. Treasurer,
11 South Bank Road,
Garston,
Liverpool L19 9AR

Tel: 0151 494 9809

15 July Field Trip to **Beverley and Hull:**

Cost £10 per person for the coach

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No:..... Places Required.....

Total Cost..... (Please make your cheque payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Please return the form with payment to Ken Lamb, 20 Osborne Road, Formby, Merseyside L37 6AR

19 August Field Trip to **Bersham and Minera:**

Cost £6 per person for the coach

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No:..... Places Required.....

Total Cost..... (Please make your cheque payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Please return the form with payment to Ken Lamb, 20 Osborne Road, Formby, Merseyside L37 6AR

National Heritage Day

I am interested in volunteering my help. Please let me have further information.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No:.....

Please return the form to Dorothy O'Hanlon, 2 Dale Mews, Gateacre, Liverpool L25 3SN



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 3/2000

Lecture Programme for 2000

- 16 November *'Persepolis: Capital of the Persian Empire'*
Martin Charlesworth
University of Liverpool
- 6 December Christmas Party including a lecture
N.B. Please note the change of date. This is a WEDNESDAY. Details below.

Lecture Programme for 2001

- 18 January The Vikings in North West England
Ben Edwards
- 15 February Archaeology of Birmingham
Mike Hodder
Birmingham Council Archaeologist
- 15 March Knowle Hall
Lance Smith
Solihull Archaeology Group
- 19 April A.G.M.
Further details in the next Newsletter.

N.B. Meetings (except for 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 2001

- 12 May *'Worcester'*
Chris Guy
Worcester Cathedral Archaeologist
- 23 June *'Offa's Dyke & Old Oswestry'*
Margaret Worthington
Co-director Offa's Dyke & Old Oswestry projects
- 7 July *'Stafford Castle'*
Nick Thomas
Stafford Castle Visitor Centre
- 8 August *'Williamson Tunnels, Liverpool'*
Guide to be arranged.
- 22 September *'Archaeology of the Lune Valley'*
Mary Higham

Bookings forms will appear in subsequent Newsletters. If you require further details please contact Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802.

Please ensure that that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear when participating in events organised by the Society. Please note that the Society cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or injury incurred on the group's activities.

Christmas Party

The M.A.S Christmas Party this year is to be held on Wednesday 6 December. Please note that this is a change to the date previously announced.

The decision to change the date for the Christmas Party has been taken reluctantly. The reason for this is that the Committee are anxious that the venue for this event should be suitable for the purpose i.e that the facilities we book are 'private', that background noise from elsewhere in the building is kept to a minimum and that the lecture on offer can be seen and heard in comfort. It is difficult to find such facilities in Liverpool so near Christmas. A number of Committee members have given good reports about the facilities offered by The Pilgrim Bar & Bistro so we were particularly anxious to secure a booking here. Unfortunately, the facilities were booked for another function on Thursday 7 December, which was our original date, so rather than try somewhere else the decision to change the date of the meeting to the previous evening was taken. We apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment that this may cause.

The Pilgrim is situated in Pilgrim Street, which runs at a right-angle from Hardman Street in the city centre, on the corner of Pilgrim Street and Mount Street, opposite the L.I.P.A and a few hundred yards from The Philharmonic Hall. The entrance to the building is along a covered walkway at the side of the building in Pilgrim Street and we have a private room upstairs.

A buffet has been arranged at £4 per head, payable in advance, by completing the enclosed booking form. The festivities will commence at 7 p.m. and Dave Roberts will give an illustrated talk on the work he has been doing in Allerton, during the evening.

If anyone should require further information please ring Ken Lamb. Tel: 01704 871802.

M.A.S. Weekend- away 30 March - 1 April 2001

Many members will already know that our long weekend for next year is being planned for early Spring at a study centre in North Wales. Our intended guide has now returned from North America and has confirmed that he will be available for the one free weekend at the Plas Tan-y-Bwlch Centre at Maentwrog. You may recall David Longley, who has acted as a guide on two of our field trips into Wales and has also lectured to us.

The Centre is 5Km. west of Ffestiniog just off the A487(T) (entrance near The Oakeley Arms). Grid reference 655 405. It was built in the 18C for the Oakeley family and has been the National Park Study Centre since 1975. It is also a conference centre and facilities are of a higher grade than those we have used previously. Single and twin rooms are available and a 'fine food' reputation is claimed. The fact that the Plas is already so well booked for 2001 suggests that users come back for more.

Charges are on a 24-hour basis and we shall be there for two days i.e from dinner on Friday until after lunch on Sunday. This should total approximately £120 (inc. VAT) standard charge; £140 (inc. VAT) en suite. This includes tuition fees and covers from dinner on Friday to lunch on Sunday. If we are out, a packed lunch will be provided. A £10, non-refundable deposit, is payable now and the balance will become due in mid-March 2001.

Our programme has been discussed in outline and we shall have a multi-period approach. Thus we envisage visiting a chambered tomb, an Iron Age site, a Roman fort, an early church and a Welsh or Edwardian castle. This will give both variety and continuity.

To reach the Centre one really needs to use a car and a car-sharing arrangement should present no difficulties. Car parking is adequate.

The dates are a little early in the year but this will mean that sites are less likely to be obscured by vegetation. So, come along and enjoy yourself as people have done on our previous two weekends. A booking form to reserve places is enclosed.

Ken Lamb
Events Secretary

Weekend at Hadrian's Wall: 8 - 10 September 2000

Nine members attended this course, on the archaeology and history of Hadrian's Wall, which was held at the Hadrian's Wall Residential Centre, Birdoswald Roman Fort, Gilsland, Near Carlisle.

The study centre occupies a range of farm buildings which are situated in the north west corner of the Roman fort. We stayed in the 17th century farmhouse, sleeping in basic but comfortable bunk-bedrooms, and eating generous and tasty meals prepared by an attentive and efficient kitchen staff. Although because of her absence we did not get to meet her, the administration assistant at the centre, Hilary Barker, played a major role in the organisation of our course programme.

After arrival at the study centre, and an excellent buffet meal we spent the rest of Friday evening in the bar of the Salmon Inn, Gilsland, getting to know one another.

Saturday (day one) started with a guided walking tour of Birdoswald Roman Fort, the cliff, overlooking the River Irthing to the south, and the Wall up to Harrow Scar Milecastle to the east. This was followed back at the study centre by a demonstration and lecture of the life and equipment of legionary and auxiliary soldiers serving on the Wall. One of our members got dressed up as a Roman soldier.

In the afternoon, Dr. Mike McCarthy of the Carlisle Archaeology Unit gave a talk of recent excavations at Roman Carlisle at Butchergate. Roman Carlisle was by turn, a fort, a frontier town (there were weeds growing in the streets and alleys!) and possibly the administrative centre for the control of Hadrian's Wall. We then visited the Roman Army Museum at Carvoran, and walked eastward for about a mile up to Turret 45A and a well preserved section of the Wall by Walltown. In the evening some of us walked east over the River Irthing, via the new pedestrian bridge, to inspect the remains of the Roman bridge at Willowford which carried the Wall westward across the Irthing and up onto the Birdoswald plateau. Back in the farmhouse, we relaxed and watched the video 'Edge of Empire - A Journey along Hadrian's Wall'.

Sunday (day two) started with a viewing of the study centre exhibition: Birdoswald archaeology, history and landscape. Dr. Jim Crow, from Newcastle University, then talked to us about the Roman Fort at Housesteads, and his own excavations, in the Housesteads sector of the Wall, within and around Milecastle 37 and at Peel Gap Tower.

Finally, in the afternoon, we visited the Roman Civilian Settlement and Fort at Vindolanda. This was a pre-Hadrianic fort which subsequently served as a supply depot for the Wall to the north. Here we were given an enthusiastic guided tour, around the current excavations inside and outside the south wall of the fort, by Justin Blake, one of the three residential archaeologists. Inside the fort are the second century A.D. stone foundations of a number of 'circular' huts, which are cut across by a rebuild of the south wall of the fort. Against the inside of this wall is an artillery platform facing south! Outside the fort wall, at the south corner, a bath-house has been uncovered. The history of this site is becoming more complicated as excavation proceeds. A considered view is that the excavation at Vindolanda could go on for another 50 years! The site contains full-scale replicas, both in turf and in stone, of parts of Hadrian's Wall, and reconstructions of Roman buildings. We also found time to visit the site museum to see the exhibition of pre-Hadrianic writing tablets ("Claudia Severa to her Lepidina, greetings. I send you a warm invitation on 11th September, for my birthday celebrations..."), and the extensive collection of textiles, leather goods and wooden objects.

In just two days we were exposed to a wealth of information and ideas about this Roman frontier. It was an excellent introduction for new visitors to, and a valuable source of new information for those of us re-visiting, this World Heritage site.

The Birdoswald Study Centre could provide a base for future MAS weekend courses devoted to other aspects of the archaeology and history of this north west region. Please come forward with your suggestions.

Barry Faulkner

Venue for M.A.S. Lectures

The Committee have received a number of comments regarding the venue for our lecture programme at the Centre for Continuing Education at Liverpool University. It has been decided that we should seek further opinions before deciding whether to act on the suggestions we have received.

One of the aims of the Society is that we should hold monthly lectures. In order to meet this objective the lecture environment should be suitable to both those attending the lectures and our guest speakers. With this aim in mind we have always alternated between accommodation provided at either Liverpool University or Museum. By so doing we are more or less guaranteed that the audio-visual equipment required by our speakers will be supplied and that the lecturer is allowed the opportunity to deliver the talk at his (or her) ease. Further considerations to consider is that the lecture theatre we currently occupy is hired to us at a reasonable rate, it is relatively convenient for buses and trains and that there are adequate car parking facilities

Having said that, there are disadvantages to the accommodation we have used recently. It is equally important that the M.A.S fulfils its social obligations. This has become more difficult of late with the 9 p.m. curfew at the University. We are aware that some members wish to socialise before and after our monthly lectures without having to go to the Everyman Bistro which is usually fairly noisy and occasionally crowded. Other hostleries within the vicinity suffer from the same problems.

We are therefore faced with trying to strike a balance between the two views above. The Committee are aware that there are other venues that may suit our purposes better. However, these are untried and we do not wish to lose our current accommodation until we are certain that the alternative is an improvement on what we have at the moment.

It has therefore been decided to seek the opinion (for or against) of other members. If you wish your views to be known please contact a member of the Committee at one of the forthcoming lectures. Alternatively, contact Dave Roberts, Secretary M.A.S. 16, Ranelagh Drive South, Garston, Liverpool L19 9DR.

As always, silence will be taken as an assumption that you are happy with the current arrangements!

Publications

Volume 10 of the Journal is now available after a long wait. All our thanks, go to Philippa Tomlinson our editor, who has put in a tremendous effort to produce this publication. A copy will be issued to those members who are entitled to it by way of their annual subscription. It will also be on sale, at a price yet to be agreed, to people attending lectures. By way of advance publication the contents are as follows:

Flint and chert availability in Mesolithic Wirral, *Christine Longworth.*

Observations on the Wilderspool-Wigan Roman road, *Rob Philpott*
(with a contribution by *Ron Cowell*)

Excavation and survey at Newton Mill, Newton-le-Willows, 1985,
Rob Philpott and R. Lawrence

Dowsing, an applied science?

Two experiments with the dowsing phenomenon

Bill Highcock

together with a collection of shorter notes.

It is worth the wait!

Sadly, due to work and other commitments, it was agreed some time ago, that Philippa should be allowed to stand down as editor, after the production of this volume. Our thanks go to her for the high standards that she has set over the years that she has fulfilled this onerous task. It is going to be a hard act to follow.

Publicity

Every now and again we conduct a publicity drive to advertise the existence of the Merseyside Archaeological Society. Those of you who attended the recent Wirral History Fair will be aware that the Society had a stand there and we received eighteen enquiries regarding membership, many from people who had not heard of the Society! It would therefore seem that the usual publicity i.e the occasional poster in libraries, museums and at the University is not covering everyone who may be interested in joining. We therefore need to start thinking about advertising more widely and more often eg local radio, press and possibly a WEB site. If any member would be interested in doing this job please contact Dave Roberts at the address above for details.

University of Liverpool Courses etc.

For those members with access to the Internet there is a wealth of information on the Liverpool University, School of Archaeology and Classics. The URL for the home page is http://www.liv.ac.uk/Archaeology_Classics/. This contains lots of information about staff, post-graduates, courses etc. The most useful pages are the Events section which includes details of Archaeology Society guest lectures, conferences etc. Of interest currently are:

1. BANEA in Liverpool 4th - 6th January 2001

The British Association of Near Eastern Archaeologists will hold its annual conference in Liverpool on the above dates. The theme of this year's conference will be 'Religion in the Ancient Near East'. In addition it is intended to mount sessions on 'Landscape archaeology in the Near East' and 'New Views of the Neolithic'.

2. Current Research in Egyptology 18-19 January 2001

This is the second annual symposium for graduates in the British Isles.

3. SOMA 2001 23-25 February 2001

This is the 5th annual meeting of the Symposium of Mediterranean Archaeology.

All these events appear to be open to non-members of the University but advance enrolment (and an appropriate fee - but they all seem to be good value for money) is necessary. Further information is

available through the e-mail addresses given or alternatively by contacting the School of Archaeology and Classics by conventional means.

Liverpool Museum

I am told that the Museum has re-opened on weekdays after a period of closure during the summer. There are new Greek and Roman exhibitions to be seen.

M.A.S. Week-end visit to Plas Tan-y-Bwlch 30 March to 1 April 2001

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel No:.....

Please reserve.....place(s) for the weekend. I would prefer Standard/En Suite/ Single/Double* facilities. I shall use my own car/could offer.....seats/need a lift*.

I enclose a cheque (payable to 'Merseyside Archaeological Society') for £..... (non-refundable deposit of £10 per head).

*please delete as appropriate.

M.A.S. Christmas Party on Wednesday 6 December at 7 p.m. in the Pilgrim Bar and Bistro

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel No:.....

I enclose payment for ticket(s) at £4 each to cover the cost of the buffet.

(cheques to be made payable to 'Merseyside Archaeological Society')

I require (please state number)..... Vegetarian meals (if applicable).



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 1/2001

Subscriptions for 2001

Subscriptions for 2001 are now due 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 2001

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 15 February | Archaeology of Birmingham
Mike Hodder
Birmingham Council Archaeologist |
| 15 March | Knowle Hall
Lance Smith
Solihull Archaeology Group |
| 19 April | A.G.M.
See below. |
| 18 October | Cleopatra's Emerald Mines in the Eastern Desert
Ian Shaw
Liverpool University |
| 15 November | Roman Chester
David Mason |
| 06 December | Christmas Event
TBA |

N.B. Meetings (except for 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 (except the AGM and Christmas event). Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

Field Trip Programme for Summer 2001

- 12 May *'Worcester'*
Chris Guy
Worcester Cathedral Archaeologist
- 23 June *'Offa's Dyke & Old Oswestry'*
Margaret Worthington
Co-director Offa's Dyke & Old Oswestry projects
- 7 July *'Stafford Castle'*
Nick Thomas
Stafford Castle Visitor Centre
- 8 August *'Williamson Tunnels, Liverpool'*
Guide to be arranged.
- 22 September *'Archaeology of the Lune Valley'*
Mary Higham

Bookings forms will appear in subsequent Newsletters. If you require further details please contact Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802.

Please ensure that that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear when participating in events organised by the Society. Please note that the Society cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or injury incurred on the group's activities.

AGM

This year we have decided to start the official side of the meeting **half an hour earlier i.e. 7 p.m** (in our usual lecture theatre at the University). This will give our guest speaker a sensible amount of time to give her lecture as we still need to vacate the building by 9 p.m. This year Sue Stallibrass of the Dept. of Archaeology at Liverpool University and English Heritage will give a lecture entitled 'The Use of Bones in Archaeology'.

M.A.S. Weekend- away 30 March - 1 April 2001

There are still some places available. Please see the previous Newsletter or ring Ken Lamb on 017048 71802

MAS Conference

In order to celebrate 25 years of the Merseyside Archaeological Society we are endeavouring to organise a Conference. This is likely to happen on a Saturday early in November. The theme will be Archaeology in the North-West and will bring up to date discoveries in the region that have happened since the Society's 10th Anniversary Conference (papers from which were published in MAS Journal Volume 7). A number of potential speakers have been approached and the response is favourable. More details in the next Newsletter.

MAS Journal

Preparations on Volume 11 are well underway. It is hoped that an anticipated late 2001 publication date will be met.

Venue for M.A.S. Lectures

There was no response to the entry in the last Newsletter and it is therefore assumed that the majority of members are content with the present arrangements. The Committee will however keep an eye open for more suitable accommodation and contact the membership again if improved facilities come to our notice.

MAS Questionnaire

Most of the ideas for events organised by the Society originate with committee members. As most of the activities provided are well attended we are assuming (hopefully correctly) that the programme we arrange satisfies the majority. However, in order to confirm this we have included a short list of activities with the membership renewal form. We would be grateful if each of you would spend a few minutes identifying which activities interest you. The information gathered will be used in organising future events.

Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology (SOMA 2001)

This will take place at University of Liverpool, School of Archaeology Classics and Oriental Studies Friday 23rd to Sunday 26th February 2001.

SOMA is a conference aimed to offer the opportunity to all postgraduate students dealing with aspects of Mediterranean archaeology to present and discuss their research and work in progress with their colleagues. Postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers from universities in the U.K., several European countries and the U.S.A, will present papers on wide variety of topics and approaches. The Organising Committee of SOMA 2001 welcomes anyone with an interest in Mediterranean archaeology to attend the Symposium. Should you wish to attend SOMA 2001, please send your name, address, and e-mail address to S O M A 2 0 0 1 , School of Archaeology Classics and Oriental Studies, The University of Liverpool, 14 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 3BX, together with the appropriate conference fee (£25, £12 concessions [**I think this may apply to MAS members, it may be worth enquiring**]; cheques payable to the University of Liverpool), to arrive no later than Friday 16th February. Further details of the programme are available on the SOMA 2001 website (<http://www.pcweb.liv.ac.uk/soma2001/>), but should you require any additional information, please contact SOMA 2001 either by e-mail (A.Koltsida@liv.ac.uk), or by post at the above address.

BANEA 2000: British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology Annual Conference

BANEA 2000 took place in Liverpool between 4-6 January 2001 and was attended by about 60 delegates, including several members of MAS. The two themes were Religion in the Ancient Near East, and New Views of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic.

The opening reception on the Thursday evening was in the University of Liverpool Senate House. Roger Moorey of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, spoke about Religion and Society in Babylonia between 2150-1750 BC, as illustrated by popular clay images.

Many of the twenty three papers given over the next two days looked at land settlement surveys carried out on sites identified as Neolithic or Chalcolithic. Of local interest, Doug Baird of Liverpool University is involved in an ongoing survey of the Konya Plain in Turkey, which arose out of the current excavations at Çatal Hüyük.

There were reports from the British Schools and Institutes in Ankara, the Levant, Iraq and Iran, and the Palestine Exploration Fund. Attempts are being made to resume the work of the British School in Iraq, which is in abeyance because of the sanctions, and to expand the work of the British School in Iran

The next annual conference is to be held at the British Museum, London, and the 2002 conference will be closer to home, in Manchester.

Ancient Cultures

A new temporary exhibition at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry is devoted to everyday life in the Middle East 3000 years ago. You can visit an Egyptian doctor, find out about hieroglyphs, play the ancient game of Senet and try on ancient costumes! There are also exhibits which examine ancient mathematical and legal systems and explore the use of the calendar and the clock.

The exhibition runs from 19 January – 13 May 2001, and admission charges apply.

Liverpool Museum -Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Government initiative, the Portable Antiquities Scheme, is now in its third year of operation. Nick Herepath, the North West Finds Liaison Officer based at Liverpool Museum, has recorded around 1600 archaeological finds during this time. These are mostly made by metal detector enthusiasts and include artefacts from all periods from the stone age through to post-medieval times. Of the north west counties Cheshire has so far produced the greatest number of items with finds from the Roman period being the most common. These are mostly coins and brooches. The information gathered is beginning to highlight some interesting areas for potential research such as: concentrations of finds in particular areas perhaps indicating previously unknown sites, types of brooches distinct to Cheshire and Merseyside, and a number of finds from the Anglo-Saxon period which were almost unheard of in this area prior to the scheme. A number of Roman and Medieval finds from the Wirral have been recorded including a 1st-2nd century AD Roman enamelled 'dolphin' type brooch from Bebington. For further information contact Nick Herepath at Liverpool Museum on 0151 478 4259, e-mail: nick@nmgmacant.demon.co.uk.

Ancient Egyptian Magic at Liverpool Museum

In spite of extensive building work, the archaeology galleries at Liverpool Museum are open 7 days a week, and there is an occasional series of events for families. On certain weekends you can have access to a trolley's worth of activities relating to Ancient Egyptian Magic. Imagine you are an ancient Egyptian scribe and make your own Book of the Dead with magic hieroglyphs to ensure a safe journey. Make your own special charm and find out about Egyptian magic spells.

The next weekend when this family activity will be available is Saturday 10 February, 10.30-4.30, and Sunday 11 February, 12.30-4.30. Ring 0151 207 0001 for further details and future dates.

Liverpool University School of Architecture and Building Engineering

There is a lecture on Stonehenge on Tuesday 20 February 2001 at 5 p.m. at G27 Lecture Theatre, Leverhulme Building, Abercromby Square when Eric Fernice, Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art will speak on Architectural Approaches to Stonehenge. Further details can be obtained from Jonathan Harris, Tel 794 2638 or e-mail: jharris1@liv.ac.uk

Cheshire Archaeology Day

This will take place at Northwich Memorial Hall on 24 March. Anybody who has attended this event in previous years will know that it is one of the highlights of the year and that consequently tickets need to be obtained early. There is a mailing list for previous attendees. Anybody who is not sure whether they are on the mailing list should contact Dr. Jill Collins at Env't. Planning Dept., Cheshire County Council, Backford Hall, Backford, Chester CH1 6PZ Tel: 01244 603204 for details as soon as possible. **Please remember, admission is by ticket only.**

CBA North-West - an insight....

The CBA North WEST AGM and Spring Reports Meeting will be held this year at a recently refurbished National Trust property 'The Great Barn at Gawthorpe Hall' near Burnley on 28th April. Those MAS members who are also members of CBA NW will receive formal notification of this in March. The intention will be to have as brief an AGM as necessary business permits followed by reports of recent archaeological work undertaken within the region and a lunch break that will allow time to tour Gawthorpe Hall or its grounds.

With formal notification of the event there will be an invitation to nominate members of the CBA NW committee. As CBA NW is a registered charity we need to have a regular change of committee membership. The current chairman, Adrian Tindall, has emphasised that the committee should include more CBA NW members who are not professional archaeologists. For example, I'm not a professional archaeologist, I work for the local Careers Guidance Service.

How did I become Secretary of CBA NW?

At the Autumn 1999 meeting of CBA NW at lunch I was present during a conversation between the then Chairman, Tim Strickland, and then Vice Chairman, Adrian Tindall. I learned that CBA NW needed a new Honorary Secretary and that they had no willing candidates. I considered this for about a

week and having decided that I could give some of my free time to CBA NW I wrote to Tim Strickland and volunteered. In the absence of other candidates I was duly elected, or should I say accepted, as Honorary Secretary at the last AGM.

The CBA is the only regional body that has a membership that includes both professional archaeologists and non-professionals and provides the only regional forum at which the two can meet. It is the CBA NW Committee's intention to improve publicity both for CBA NW and its affiliated local societies through CBA events and publication through the CBA web site. The CBA web site should soon include a number of pages dedicated to CBA NW, listing local societies in the region with contact details.

The Committee meets about six times a year. Meetings during University term time are held at the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Liverpool. Meetings outside term time are held at Bolton Museum.

Carolyne Kershaw
Hon. Sec. CBA North-West

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2001 Subscription Form

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

I enclose my subscription for 2001 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Ordinary : £10.00 Junior: £2.00 Family : £12.00
Institutional : £15.00 Concessions:£5.00

Questionnaire

Please place a tick against all of the activities below which are of interest to you and return with your membership renewal.:

Lectures

Field Visits

Being a member of the MAS Council

Field-walking

Excavation

Documentary Research

Publicity

Being involved in the production of Publications

Selling Publications

Representing the Society at organised events e.g National Heritage Day

Buildings Survey

Landscape Interpretation

Computer Applications in Archaeology. Please specify.....

Newsletter contributor

Scientific Applications in Archaeology. Please specify.....

Artefact Recording

Archaeological Drawing

Writing an article for the MAS Journal

Other. Please specify.....



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 2/2001

Subscriptions for 2001

Subscriptions for 2001 were due in 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 2001

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 18 October | Cleopatra's Emerald Mines in the Eastern Desert
Ian Shaw
Liverpool University |
| 15 November | Roman Chester
David Mason |
| 06 December | Christmas Event
TBA |

N.B. Meetings (except for 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 2001

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 7 July | 'Stafford Castle'
Nick Thomas
Stafford Castle Visitor Centre |
| 22 September | 'Archaeology of the Lune Valley'
Mary Higham |

Please note that the proposed field trip to Williamson Tunnels scheduled for 8th August has had to be cancelled. Bookings for the two remaining field trips are now being taken. If you wish to attend please complete the attached booking form. Please make cheques payable to 'Merseyside Archaeological Society'. If you require further details please contact Ken Lamb. Tel: 017048 71802.

Both trips will be by coach. Please note that due to the 'foot and mouth' epidemic the Society cannot guarantee that it can adhere to the schedule that has currently been agreed. However, we have been in touch with our guides and contingency plans have been made.

All coach trips depart from Mann Island, Pier Head, Liverpool at 9.15 p.m. prompt. Pick-ups for the Stafford trip can be arranged in Birkenhead. *Please let Ken know if you wish to board the coach at Birkenhead.*

Please ensure that that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear when participating in events organised by the Society. Please note that the Society cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or injury incurred on the group's activities.

Valetta Convention

The following statement has recently been issued by the Council for Independent Archaeology:

'British archaeology is at a turning point. The British government has just signed up to the 'Valetta convention' of the Council of Europe, Article 3 of which mandates a system of licensing for archaeological excavations.

This will destroy British archaeology as we know it. One of the glories of British archaeology has been its community archaeology, a wide spread of local archaeological societies - sometimes indeed local individuals - who have looked after the archaeology of their area, both to protect and investigate the past. This sense of responsibility will be destroyed if a licence has to be sought for every move, with the implication that the government 'owns' the past.

It will destroy innovation, the abilities of the young and the outsiders to challenge establishment thinking, which has given British archaeology a liveliness that is unrivalled anywhere in the world.

Article 3 is extremely comprehensive; it mandates licensing both of individuals and of excavations in the most uncompromising terms. Indeed it covers not only excavation, but also prospecting in any form including geophysical prospecting. In many countries (such as Italy) the ban on prospecting even extends to aerial photography; it will certainly be extended to all forms of field walking.

Article 3 will not just affect local societies and 'amateur' archaeologists but will spread wider to university archaeologists, museums, research institutes - even (particularly) the Time Team will be affected by the need to seek permission in advance every time they need to open a new trench or carry out 'geophys' on a new area.

It would appear that English Heritage, Historic Scotland and Cadw are taking the line that it can be dealt with by introducing a 'Code of Practice'. However, this is not what Article 3 states or intends. The government agencies are clearly unhappy with the licensing proposals, which they do not wish to put into action. By signing this form (enclosed) you will strengthen their position: licensing is now official government policy and it is the politicians we must inform of our concern.'

Andrew Selkirk
Chairman, CIA

The MAS Council will be deciding how to respond on behalf of the Society at its next meeting on 28th June. However, individuals are also urged to make their feelings known. Completed forms should be returned to CIA, 7 Lea Road, Ampthill MK45 2PR.

Time Detectives Events

The National Trust is planning 'Time Detective' events at Speke Hall on 21st and 22nd July and at Formby Point on 28th and 29th July. They require helpers to monitor and guide children in a collection of archaeology games and activities which are designed to give children an introduction to archaeology and what archaeologists do. The collection includes:

Pots and Pieces
Reading the Clues
Excavation in a box
Archaeology jigsaws
Introduction to Dendrochronology
Introduction to Pollen Analysis

More hands on activities to be co-ordinated by Jeremy Milln, NTs regional archaeologist and John Crossland from Manchester University Field Archaeology Unit will be organised if sufficient numbers of helpers can be found. These include wattle and daub sessions, planning, standing building survey and basic excavation techniques at Speke Hall and making a plaster cast (children will be invited to plaster cast an imprint of their foot and compare it to casts of prehistoric footprints) at Formby. John Lord will also give a display of flint knapping at Formby. This will possibly be combined with a walk/talk on the gathering side of hunter/gatherer activities if sufficient volunteers are available.

If you can please try and support this activity. Further details are available from Ken Lamb.

MAS Conference

Merseyside Archaeology Society is organising a Conference to be held at Liverpool University on Saturday 10th November 2001

to celebrate the first 25 years of the MAS. Those of you who remember the 10th Anniversary Conference which was subsequently published in MAS Journal Volume 7 in 1986 will recall how successful it was. We now have an opportunity to catch up on developments (of which there are many) which have occurred in the last 15 years. The theme of the conference is The Archaeology of Merseyside and the North-West from the Prehistoric to the Medieval period and speakers will be:

Jim Innes - Environment
 Ron Cowell - Prehistory
 Rob Philpott - Romano-British
 Ben Edwards - Pre-Conquest
 Jen Lewis & Rob Philpott - Medieval

The day will be chaired by Peter Davey. We are also looking to provide a buffet lunch. There will be a small attendance fee which will be agreed shortly. More details will appear in the autumn newsletter but in the meantime please keep the date free if you wish to attend.

MAS Questionnaire

We had a reasonable response to the questionnaire that was issued with the last newsletter. 33 forms were returned and members showed an interest in the following activities:

Subject	No of Members with interest
Lectures	27
Field Visits	27
Being a member of the MAS Council	1
Field-walking	20
Excavation	21
Documentary Research	11
Publicity	0
Being involved in the production of Publications	1
Selling Publications	1
Representing the Society at organised events e.g. National Heritage Day	6
Buildings Survey	6
Landscape Interpretation	15
Computer Applications in Archaeology.	2
Newsletter contributor	2
Scientific Applications in Archaeology.	32
Artefact Recording	6
Archaeological Drawing	1
Writing an article for the MAS Journal	2

The Council will be discussing some of the ways in which members wishes and other helpful suggestions can be accommodated at the next Council meeting. Again, more in the next newsletter.

Excavations at Lathom

An evening visit has been arranged to see the archaeological excavation at Lathom, near Ormskirk, which is being carried out by the Field Archaeology Section, Liverpool Museum and the Department of Archaeology, Liverpool University. Those of you who attended last year will be aware that the site is archaeologically rich and well worth the effort of getting there.

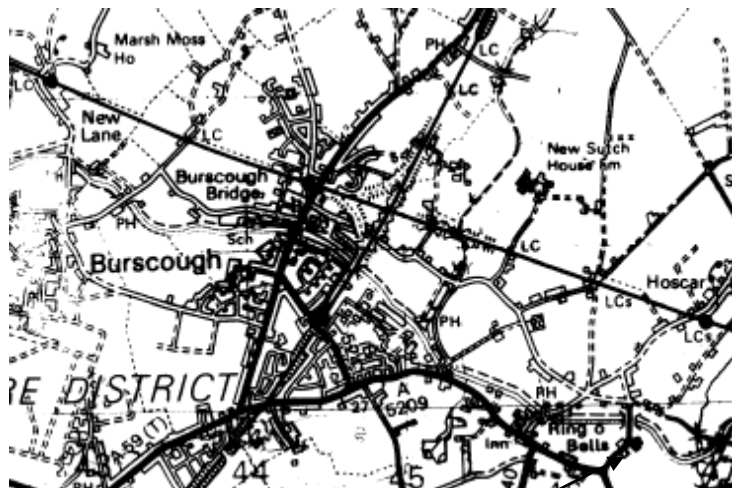
A conducted tour has been arranged for Thursday 5th July starting at 7.00 p.m.

The maps below show the site of the excavation at DUTTONS FARM. The best approach to the site is from the A5209. If driving from Burscough, take the next left turn, after passing the right turn for the B5240. If driving from Newburgh, take the next right turn after crossing the River Tawd, west of Newburgh.

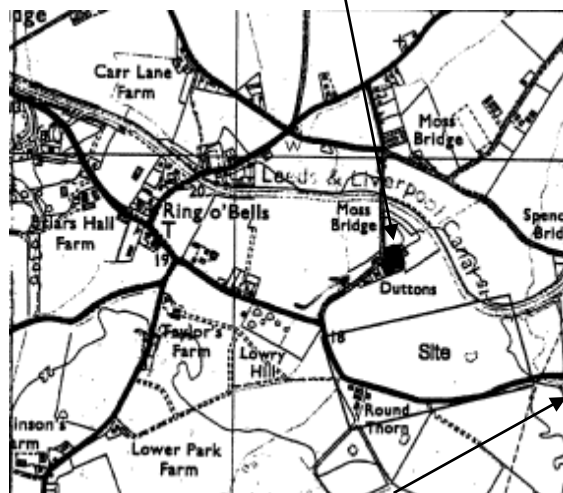
Dutton's Farm (not signed) is situated about 200 yards from the turn off the A5209, on the right side of a left hand bend (the road continues on to, and over, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Moss Bridge No: 35). The entrance to the farmyard is through a large, white double-barred gate supported by brick pillars.

There is parking space for not more than 12 cars in the car park - so car pool where possible. If anyone needs or can offer lift(s) please contact Barry Faulkner. Tel: 0151 494 9809

The grid reference for Dutton's Farm on OS Landranger (1:50,000) Map 108 is 465107.



Dutton's Farm



National Heritage Day – Norton Priory

As many of you are aware, the Society has over the last few years made it's contribution to, what was formerly, National Archaeology Weekend by staging a joint event with Norton Priory Museum Trust in Runcorn. This year it will take place at Norton Priory on one day only on 8 September. During this event 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 and continues to around 4 pm. Entry to the site is free.

We need 20-30 volunteers to make the day a success. 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 slip below and we shall let you know the final arrangements when they are made.

Saturday 8 September: National Heritage Day, Norton Priory,Runcorn

I am interested in volunteering my help. Please let me have further information.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone number.....

Please return this slip to Julia McLaughlin-Cook, 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 1EL

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2001 Subscription Form

To: Miss C Jones, 8 Loretto Road, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 2BE

I enclose my subscription for 2001 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Ordinary : £10.00 Junior: £2.00 Family : £12.00
Institutional : £15.00 Concessions:£5.00

7th July - Stafford Castle

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Tel No:.....

No. of persons attending.....@ £11 each

22nd September - The Lune Valley

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Tel No:.....

No. of persons attending.....@ £12 each



Merseyside Archaeological Society

Newsletter 3/2001

Please note the change of venue for the October and November lectures only.

Lecture Programme for 2001

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 18 October | Cleopatra's Emerald Mines in the Eastern Desert
Ian Shaw
Liverpool University |
| 15 November | Roman Chester
David Mason |
| 29 November | Christmas Event
see below |

N.B. Meetings (except for the Christmas Party) are to be held in the **Lecture Theatre 5 at the University of Liverpool, Rendall Building, Bedford Street South, Liverpool** (map below) at 7.30p.m. Non-members are welcome, on payment of £1 admission fee.

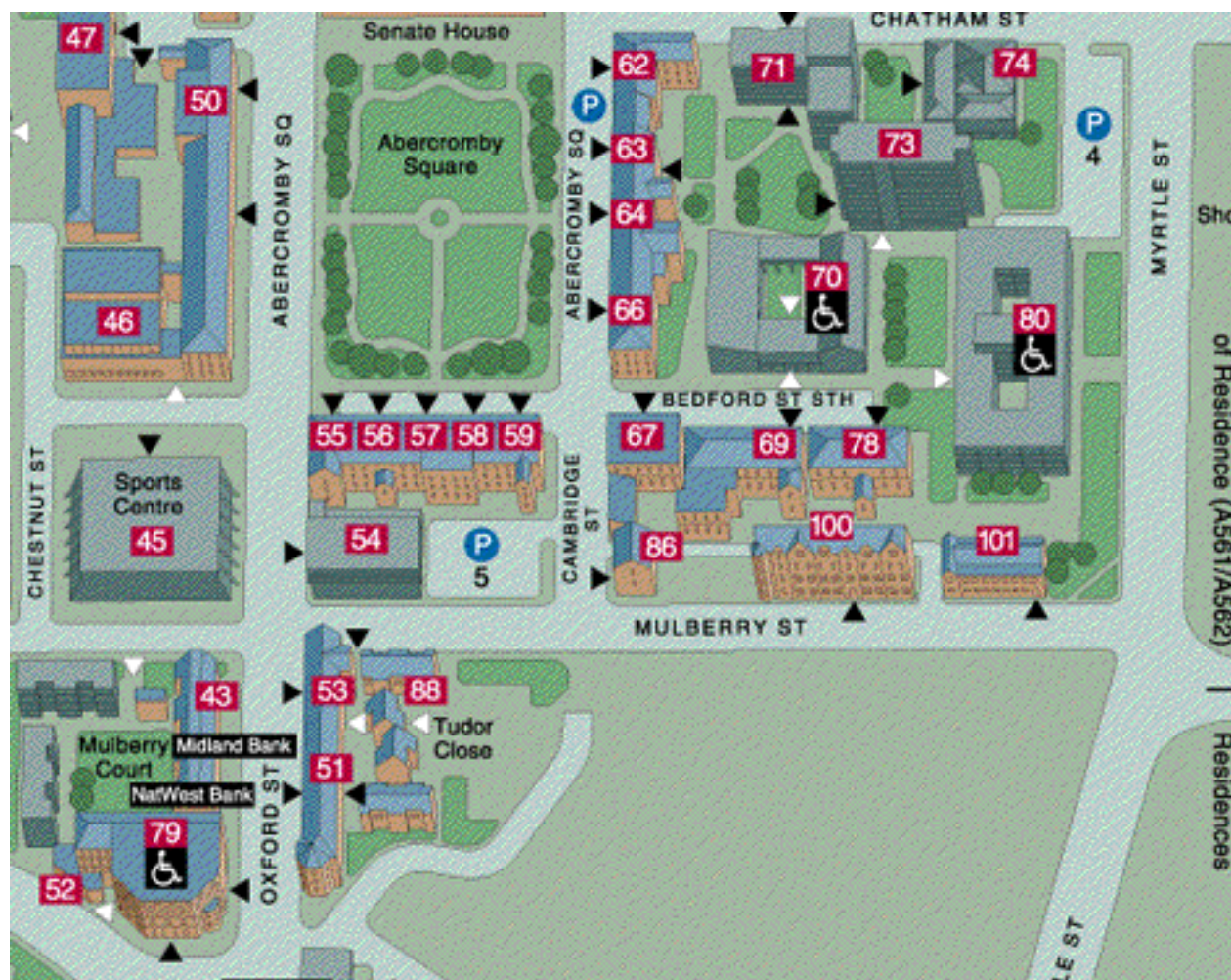
Lecture Programme for 2002

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 17 January | A Lancashire Hall (final details awaited)
David Brazendale |
| 21 February | Survey Among the Spartans: Recent Field Work in Laconia
Chris Mee
Liverpool University |
| 21 March | Animal bone Evidence for the Sasanian and Islamic Periods in Merv
Ian Shaw
Liverpool University |
| 18 April | A.G.M. |

N.B. Meetings will 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.

Lecture Venue

We have temporarily had to vacate our usual meeting room in the University as the facilities are required by a University sponsored course. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause but we shall return to '126' in January. A map showing the location of the Rendall Building (no. 70) is below. Any members who wish to get a snack or drink before the lecture can still use the facilities in '126' which is only a few minutes walk from our temporary accommodation.



MAS Conference

The last newsletter contained advanced warning of the Conference that has been arranged at Liverpool University on Saturday 10th November to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Merseyside Archaeological Society. The details have now been finalised and a booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please try to attend and tell your family and friends. This is a unique event from an archaeological perspective as it is an opportunity to hear about recent developments in archaeology in the north west at first-hand. The speakers are well known to members of the Society as the local experts in their field and most have been members themselves at sometime in the Society's history. This will be a most interesting day and will hopefully be as successful as the Conference that the MAS held in 1986 to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

In order to publicise the event we have enclosed a poster and would be grateful if you could display a copy in your place of work, local library etc.

Christmas Social Event

This will take place at the Pilgrim on Pilgrim Street on 29 November. This is one week earlier than the date that was previously advertised. The change of date is necessary in order to secure the use of the room. Those of who attended last year will probably agree that it is a most suitable venue for this event. This year our guest will be Catherine Cain of the British Waterways Board who will give a short talk

on proposed developments on the Liverpool water-front. Further information will be given at the October and November lectures. Those of you who are unable to attend the lectures but wish to come to the Pilgrim can obtain further details from Ken Lamb during November.

Buckley Conference

300 YEARS OF BUCKLEY POTTERY 1650-1950

The next meeting of the North West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group will be held at Liverpool Museum's new store in Liverpool on Saturday 6th October 2001. The day will provide an opportunity to find out a bit more about the blackwares, slipwares and other types of pottery made at Buckley, North Wales and widely distributed in north-west England, north Wales and beyond. Material from kilns excavated in the town will be on display and participants are encouraged to bring along pottery which they think may have been made in Buckley.

PROGRAMME

Venue open from 10am. Tea and coffee available

10.30 Practical session: Led by Christine Longworth. Opportunity to examine the range of wares and kiln material from potteries dated 1650 to 19th century.

11.30 Introduction to Buckley: Christine Longworth. Location, geology, chronological and documentary evidence

12.30 - 2pm Lunch at nearby Chinese Restaurant

2pm Practical session: Identification of possible Buckley pottery from other sites. An opportunity to bring along those pieces which are difficult to identify.

3pm Discussion: Led by Peter Davey. The problems of identifying Buckley pottery

4pm Finish

There will be small charge (£2 - £2.50 depending on numbers) payable on the day, this is to cover the cost of opening up the building. The store is about 10 minutes drive from the centre of Liverpool and the nearest railway station is Sandhills on the Merseyrail Northern Line (Southport direction). Maps will be sent out to those who wish to attend.

If you would like to attend please reply to Julie Edwards c/o 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD. It may be necessary to limit numbers for this meeting so places will be allocated on a first-come basis. There is a very limited choice of refreshment venues in the area if you would like lunch we can reserve table space at a nearby, reasonably, priced Chinese restaurant; please indicate with your reply whether you would or would not like a meal.

The MPRG's 'Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics' was published in May 2001. If you do not yet have a copy they can be obtained, price £4.50 + £1.00 p&p, from MPRG c/o Museum of London Specialist Services, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED. Cheques should be made payable to 'MPRG'. There will be a limited number available for sale at the 6th October meeting.

Heritage Open Day

On Saturday 8 September, 13 members and friends of MAS put on activities at Norton Priory, Runcorn, as part of the national Heritage Open Day scheme which is organised by the Civic Trust. Visitors of all ages were invited to draw archaeological remains using a drawing frame, learn more about herbs grown in the walled garden, decorate marzipan sweets or colour in a design based on an illuminated manuscript. Those who did not mind getting their hands dirty could try tile-making in the resource room or felt-making in the undercroft. Reg and Margaret May enthralled onlookers with their demonstration of spinning using a small spinning wheel – it's harder than it looks! An information leaflet on the various mediaeval crafts was produced, and Gwen Walker, the Education Officer at Norton Priory, wrote a related quiz for children.

We are very grateful to everyone who took part, and to the staff at Norton Priory for making us welcome.

The society has been involved in Heritage Open day events at Norton Priory for several years. Members also regularly take part in similar activities at Liverpool Museum during the National

Archaeology Day weekend organised by the Council for British Archaeology (usually at the end of July). This year the theme was Deciphering Codes, and included activities relating to Egyptian hieroglyphs, Mesopotamian cuneiform, Latin writing on waxed tablets and Saxon runes.

Why do we take part? After all, it's not digging, is it? Well, here are some reasons:

- Not all members can, or even want, to excavate for themselves. Archaeology covers a wide span of activities from initial surveys, recording standing remains and excavations to post-excavation work, publishing results, and interpreting finds, perhaps in a museum or an information board at a site.
- For lots of people, the thrill of archaeology is what it can teach them about the lives of people in the past. Re-enacting and re-creating events are other ways of finding out what it might have been like in the past.
- It's educational. Sometimes members are sharing their knowledge with other people, sometimes they are the ones learning.
- It's fun, both for those who put on the activities and for those who sample them.
- It's just one of many activities that the society undertakes, alongside evening lectures, day trips, occasional weekend trips and journal publication.
- It's a way of keeping the MAS's name before the public and bringing the society to the attention of interested people outside the university/ museum network.

If you think this is the sort of activity that the Society should be carrying out, why not contact us and get involved next time? If you don't, your suggestions for other activities would be very welcome.

Valletta Convention

The last Newsletter contained a copy of a statement from the Council for Independent Archaeology regarding the Valletta Convention. Over the summer, there has been a great deal of debate about the pros and cons of this piece of legislation. Although it will be a little time yet before any kind of consensus is reached it would be useful to try and put the pieces into a balanced context for society members.

A most useful summary of the wording of the Valletta Convention can be found on the CBA web-site at www.britarch.ac.uk/valletta/ and is re-produced below for those without internet access.

'What is the Valletta Convention?'

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) was signed at Valletta in January 1992 and replaced the 1969 European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. It was ratified by the UK Government on 21 September 2000 and came into force on 21 March 2001. It contains provisions for the identification and protection of archaeological heritage, its integrated conservation, the control of excavations, the use of metal detectors and the prevention of illicit circulation of archaeological objects, as well as for dissemination of information.

'What does the Convention cover?'

The Convention defines the archaeological heritage very broadly (Article 1). It deals with the inventorying and protection of sites and areas, the mandatory reporting of chance finds (all in Article 2) and the control of illicit trade in antiquities (Articles 10 and 11). It promotes high standards for all archaeological work, which should be authorised and should be carried out by suitably qualified people (Article 3). It recommends the creation of archaeological reserves, and requires the conservation of excavated sites and the safe-keeping of finds (Article 4). It follows closely current British practice (as set out in PPG15 and PPG16 in England and comparable documents in other parts of the UK) for the protection and recording of archaeology during development (Article 5) and contains provisions for the funding for development-led archaeology (again following closely current British practice) and for research (Article 6). Articles 7 and 8 cover the collection and dissemination of information while Article 9 is about the promotion of public awareness and access. Article 12 deals with mutual technical and scientific assistance internationally.

'What are the key provisions that raise issues for current UK practice?'

Article 1 provides a broad definition of the 'archaeological heritage', that extends beyond the terms of the current ancient monuments, historic buildings and maritime heritage legislation.

Article 2 requires signatory States to make provision for the maintenance of an inventory of 'archaeological heritage' as defined under Article 1 and for the designation of protected monuments

and areas. This raises the issue of whether SMRs (or Historic Environment Record Centres) should be made statutory; and whether there is a need to consider the creation of ‘archaeological reserves’ (eg potentially extending beyond scheduling and local designations to review the present status or scope of ‘Areas of Archaeological Importance’, World Heritage Sites, and possibly Conservation Areas).

Para 2.iii is strongly supportive of reporting of portable antiquities, but as this can be limited to precious metals, even England and Wales comply under the current terms of the Treasure Act – though this is one of the issues currently under review. This raises issues relating to putting the portable antiquities recording scheme onto a permanent footing.

Article 3 requires application of procedures for the *authorisation* and *supervision* of excavation and other intrusive archaeological activities to protect the ‘archaeological heritage’, through ensuring that appropriate research techniques and conservation measures are adopted by suitably *qualified* and authorised staff. It emphasises the desirability of using non-destructive techniques and minimising loss of original deposits, and particularly raises the question of how the requirements for *authorisation*, *qualification* and *supervision* relate to voluntary bodies and the academic sector where they are working on investigations that fall outside the controls of scheduled monument consent and the planning process (see below).

Para 3.iii specifically relates to the need for controlling the use of metal detectors within the scope of domestic national law (in the UK currently covering Scheduled Monuments, areas covered under by-laws and reference to the Metal Detectorists’ Code of Conduct under the Treasure Act). Apart from whether current provisions are broad enough, an issue that arises is whether searching for antiquities with the aid of a metal detector constitutes an archaeological investigation – the Convention’s strong statement of principle (in its explanatory notes), seeking to outlaw searching for antiquities to sell on the open market, raises questions about the full market value rewards offered for items claimed by the Crown.

Article 4 *Para 4.iii* concerns the public provision of resources to acquire and conserve sites and monuments and to maintain properly curated conservation, archive and finds repositories. This raises questions of whether provision of (or ensuring access to) facilities for museum storage for finds and archives should be made a statutory obligation on local authorities. It also has implications for excavators’ responsibilities for conservation and storage of finds.

Article 5 concerning developer funded archaeology is largely covered by current UK practice, though it may have implications for strengthening archaeological recording under PPG15 and its equivalents, and more particularly for publication of developer-funded investigations.

Article 6 concerns the financing of research and conservation. *Para 6.i* could be used to argue for an appropriate level of funding to ensure that the archaeological implications of the policies and operations within the ‘areas of competence’ of statutory undertakers, local authorities, DEFRA and other government departments or agencies must be adequately funded. *Para 6.ii* emphasises the importance of developer funding as well as Government funding for investigation of sites affected by both public and private developments, including publication.

Articles 7, 8 and 9 are important in promoting the case for better publication and dissemination of information, eg they require preliminary summary publication of the results of excavations (Article 7). Article 7, in conjunction with Articles 3 and 5, could also be used to impose stronger requirements on excavators to publish.

Articles 10 and 11 relate to the control of illicit trade in antiquities, which is also subject to a separate (UNESCO) convention that the UK has just agreed to sign. ’

Local response

On 31st August Ken Lamb and Dave Roberts attended a seminar, hosted by The University of Manchester Field Archaeology Unit. The purpose of the seminar was for local archaeological societies to meet to discuss the possible implications arising from the implementation of the articles described under the Valletta Convention, particularly Article 3. Guest speakers were George Lambrick, Director of the CBA and Peter Hinton, Director of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Some 15 societies, mainly from the Greater Manchester area, were represented.

The meeting concluded with the following points:

- The aim of all persons working in archaeology, be they professional, amateur or academic, should be to work to the highest standards
- There is a need for control and access to advice of a specialist nature
- The provision of a license demonstrates a degree of commitment

- There is the danger of alienating and driving some individuals or groups underground if a process of licensing is introduced
- There is the potential to bring amateur and professional bodies closer together
- Licensing may improve standards
- There should be no licensing fee for amateur bodies
- One licensing body is not a good idea. Licenses should be administered locally
- The licensing process must be simple
- There should be an agreed code of practice
- Nominating an individual license holder on behalf of a society is not a good idea because of the legal issues involved
- There should be different levels of licensing for different bodies e.g the licensing conditions for the professional conducting large excavations, attracting funding amounting to thousands of pounds, should be different to the amateur doing occasional field walking on a Sunday afternoon
- It was recognised that there are different competencies existing across the archaeological spectrum e.g the amateur may have more detailed local knowledge whereas the professional may be more familiar with archaeological good practise
- There is diversity of knowledge and interests within archaeological groups e.g between site, township, region and national
- Control should be exercised from within and at the local level
- There is an issue surrounding the area of how competence should be assessed
- Control should be exercised by representatives from interest groups
- The link between academics and amateurs is closer than their link with professionals. Amateurs and academics have more of an interest in the past and research whereas many professionals have commercial interests. They tend to work different hours e.g most amateurs work solely at weekends
- There is an opportunity for information exchange
- Controlling bodies should be seen as trainers not policemen

Clearly, there are many points of interest here, some of which go beyond the 'spirit' of Valletta. It remains to be seen whether this is just another piece of legislation which will be hotly debated for a while, promptly forgotten and things will then just carry on as before. However, whatever the outcome, the Societies that were represented on 31st August perceived that an opportunity to bring those people working in archaeology into a closer working relationship, be they amateur, academic or professional, could only benefit the discipline and should not be missed. If the discussion surrounding the Valletta Convention achieves this then it is no bad thing. In the meantime, the debate continues and it will be interesting to see the CBA statement following their AGM in London on 29th September.

If any members have views that they wish to make known they can do so through this Newsletter.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 3/2003

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CBA MEMBERS' WEEKEND

MAS is delighted to be involved with the CBA members' weekend, which will be held in Liverpool from Friday 26th to Saturday 28th September 2003. The weekend will include the Beatrice de Cardi lecture, to be given by Loyd Grossman, presentations on the archaeology of north-west England, trips to local archaeological sites, and other events. For details of the programme and an application form, please write to: CBA Members' Weekend, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 9WA; telephone 01904 671417; e-mail: info@britarch.ac.uk. The weekend is organised by the CBA in conjunction with CBA North West, National Museums Liverpool and MAS.

BRING AND BUY BOOK SALE

While you are in the attic, why not dig out those archaeology or history books that you haven't read for a long time? We are holding a bring and buy bookstall to raise funds for the Society and increase everyone's reading pleasure. The sale will take place on **THURSDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2003, FROM 6.15 P.M.** in the Lecture Theatre, Room 1.13 at the University of Liverpool, Centre for Continuing Education, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. The sale will be followed at 7.30 p.m. by a lecture by Mr. Ron Cowell (further details below).

EVENTS DIARY

Unless otherwise indicated, lectures will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Room 1.13 of the Continuing Education Centre, 126 Mount Pleasant, the University of Liverpool.

PLEASE NOTE changes to the previously published times and dates.

Thursday , **23rd October 2003, starting at 8.00 p.m.** (instead of our usual 7.30 p.m. start)

“THE ROLE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT” : Tim Strickland
MBE

Archaeological consultancy will be described and discussed using the example of the Gifford Archaeological Service, which was created by our speaker, as a case study. The topics covered will range through project-types from straight forward Planning and Development (archaeological mitigation) to major schemes like Stonehenge, to HLF-funded projects and International Cultural Heritage work.

Tim Strickland is a Director-Chief Archaeologist with GIFFORD Consulting Engineers. He was one of the instigators of the Roman Middlewich Project (see our 16th August 2003 Fieldtrip).

Thursday, 20th November 2003

Activities start at 6.15 p.m. with a “bring and buy” archaeological book and magazine fair to raise funds for MAS.

7.30 p.m. : **“THE LATE PREHISTORIC/ROMANO-BRITISH FARMSTEAD SITE AT DUTTONS FARM, LATHOM”** : Ron Cowell (see Newsletter 1/2003 for details)

Thursday, 11th December 2003

CHRISTMAS MEETING at the Pilgrim Bar and Bistro.

MAS member Maurice Handley will give a slide show on **“RUM, EIGG AND MUC : A HEBRIDEAN MISCELLANY”**

The islands of Rum, Eigg and Muc lie in the inner Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. Volcanic activity during the Tertiary era (40-50 million years ago) formed rocks which were subsequently remodelled during the Ice Age to produce magnificent scenery. There is evidence that Rum, a mountainous island, is the site of one of Scotland's earliest settlements. This slide show will illustrate the beautiful landscape of this part of Scotland, its underlying geology and some of the archaeology and wildlife in the area. Western Scotland also happens to be the venue for some wonderful sunsets.

Maurice Handley joined the MAS after moving from the East Midlands five years ago. He has a long-standing amateur interest in geology which naturally led to an interest in other aspects of the environment. He has attended a number of courses in the Continuing Education Department at the University of Liverpool, which have fostered his interest in Archaeology.

MEMBERS' FIELDTRIP PHOTOGRAPHS

Many members are observed snapping away with their cameras during fieldtrips. You are invited to bring your albums of MAS-related photos along to the CHRISTMAS MEETING. Here is an opportunity for remembrance and nostalgia, mellowed by the passage of time (and the consumption of alcohol?). Also select a few of the best (however defined) of your collection for possible board display. You may be asked to contribute one or more photos to a MAS photographic archive.

A CHRISTMAS MEETING BOOKING FORM will be distributed during the autumn.

PRACTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

EXCAVATIONS AT DUTTONS FARM, LATHOM, NEAR ORMSKIRK

Ten people attended a tour of the site, conducted by the Director of Fieldwork Ron Cowell, on the evening of Thursday 10th July 2003. Three members attended the teaching dig at the site, conducted by Ron Cowell, on Saturday 19th July 2003.

FIELDWALKING, AND GRAVEYARD SURVEY, TRAINING COURSES

The planning of these courses is proceeding.

EVENTS DURING 2004

The events sub-committee (Barry Faulkner, Roy Fletcher, Elisabeth Heslewood, Mark Knowles, Julia McLaughlin-Cook) is currently arranging the 2004 programme. It will be the subject of a dedicated mail shot during the autumn.

MAS ON-LINE

When you're next surfing the net, why not call into the MAS website, which can be accessed at http://www.liv.ac.uk/Archaeology_Classics/events/mas.htm. As well as an electronic version of this newsletter (useful if you've mislaid your paper copy!), there's a selection of photos from recent fieldtrips.

EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

While on-line, take the opportunity to check on **events at the University of Liverpool** hosted by the School of Archaeology, Classics and Oriental Studies. Wherever possible, details of forthcoming guest lectures, conferences, etc., are publicised at MAS lectures, but some are arranged at very short notice. Keep up to date with these changes by visiting the Events section of the SACOS website: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/sacos/index.html>. For those unfamiliar with the campus, maps are available on: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/UniversityPrecinct/>. The guest lectures are held at No. 14 Abercromby Square (no. 62 on the map).

MAS COUNCIL

At the last AGM in April, three members of the Council stepped down: Shirley-Anne Hadley,Carolyn Kershaw and Winifred Wang. I would like to thank them for their hard work, and to welcome Elizabeth Heslewood onto the Council.

Council members staying on from last year are: Jenny Woodcock (Chairperson), Dave Roberts (Secretary), Barry Faulkner (Events Secretary), Roy Fletcher (Treasurer), Cathy Jones (Membership Secretary), Gina Muskett (Newsletter Editor), Alan Greaves, Bill Highcock, Len Kata, Mark Knowles, Ken Lamb, Julia McLaughlin Cook and Margaret Warhurst (NML). Ken Lamb and Philippa Tomlinson are Life Members of the society. Feel free to tell us what you want from the society the next time you see one of us.

Jenny Woodcock

WEEKEND EXCURSION TO THE ISLE OF MAN: SATURDAY 5TH & SUNDAY 6TH APRIL 2003

Morning mist in Douglas, which heralded good weather for our first day, paradoxically caused Dorothy O'Hanlon's early flight to be delayed. Also the news that the organiser Jenny Woodcock was unfortunately ill meant that it was a slightly reduced group that assembled at the Manx Museum on Saturday morning. The principal aim of the weekend was to study Early Christian sites and the group was first of all given a comprehensive introductory talk by Nick Johnson from the Centre for Manx Studies.

The Isle of Man is approximately 50km long by 15km wide and, in general, its geology is dominated by the Manx Slates which form the central uplands rising to 621m. There is a northern plain of glacial drift, intrusions of granitic rocks within the Slates and outcrops of sandstone in the west and limestone in the south. Located on an important maritime thoroughfare at the centre of the north Irish Sea, the Isle of Man has variously fallen under the influence of Irish, Scottish, English, Welsh and Scandinavian cultures and peoples. Christianity was introduced from the Celtic west by the 6th century and resulted in the large number of carved stone crosses found on the island.

The common Manx place-name prefix "Balla-" means 'homestead' or 'farm' and refers to a "quarterland", four of which comprised a "treen" - one of the early administrative land divisions. Many of the island's churches lie on former "keeill" or chapel sites which served the surrounding quarterlands, as for example at Kirk Lonan [National Grid Reference: SC 427794]. Typically keeills were low simple structures about 6m long by 3.5m wide built to provide shelter for the priest. There are more than 180 keeill sites; the majority are stone or earth remains representing the subsequent rebuild following the destruction of the original structures by the Vikings. Pagan Scandinavians settled on the island during the 9th century and cross slabs bearing both Christian and pagan motifs indicate they had converted to Christianity by the late tenth century. At this time a dynasty of Norse kings established castles at Peel on the west coast and Castletown in the south.

Following a brief look in the museum, the group, led by Peter Davey, boarded the coach for a tour of the northern half of the island. Our first stop was at Maughold churchyard [SC 494917] where there is a magnificent collection of stone crosses with decoration ranging from crude incisions on local slate to elaborately carved and pierced cross slabs. The church itself developed from an earlier keeill and there are remains of three others within the churchyard. Nearby lies the defensive site at Maughold Head, where spring flowering gorse had recently been burnt, exposing details of the earthwork construction and part of a stone structure. A few of the group ventured to the edge of the cliffs to see St Maughold's Well, indicative of the Celtic veneration for springs at holy sites.

After lunch on the ramparts we then rode across the northern plain to Andreas [SC 415993] where the church has an exhibition of cross slabs containing Christian and pagan scenes and Ogham and Runic inscriptions. Further evidence that early Viking settlers kept their religious options open was found in the mixed symbolism seen on the cross slabs in St Patrick's Church at Jurby [SC 349985].

The final visit of the day was to the small hill-fort at Cronk Sumark [SC 392942] near Ballaugh. "Cronk" means "hill" in Manx and it certainly proved a stiff climb for the party. We were rewarded with a splendid panorama of the plain we had just visited, with the moraine ridge to the north and, below us the Curragh - a basin of willow carr which was probably the site of a former lake (Ballaugh derived from Balla + Lough or 'farm lake'). The exercise on Cronk Sumark had stimulated our appetites for the evening meal which Jenny had organised for us at a quayside restaurant and where Dorothy finally caught up with us.

On our second day we went west from Douglas, passing the remains of the chapel sited on a former keeill and dedicated to St Trinian - a contraction of St Ninian associated with the Abbey at Whithorn in Galloway. Our first locality was Port y Candas near St John's [SC 285816] where a circular platform and ditch about 15m diameter lies in a boggy area straddling the road to Castletown. Recent excavation revealed defensive walls and it is interpreted as a 'ring fort' although the O.S.map identifies it as a 'round house'. Continuing west we stopped briefly to photograph the Tynwald - the site of the meeting of the 'thing' or assembly established by the Vikings more than 1000 years ago.

The remainder of the morning was spent at Peel Castle on St. Patrick's Isle [SC 242845]. The Isle, which supports a complex of defensive and ecclesiastical structures mainly built from the local sandstone, lies in a commanding position controlling the major west-east route across the middle of the Isle of Man. Whereas, for example, Maughold and St Trinian's came under English and Scottish monastic control, Peel, facing west, was undoubtedly the subject of Irish influence. Evidence of this was seen in the tenth century round tower with a doorway raised 2.5m above ground - a defensive arrangement found on only two other sites outside Ireland. Irish influence is also found in the ruined St Patrick's Church, built in the 10th century with 'antae' or buttresses which continue the line of the side walls. The larger and more impressive St German's Cathedral dates from the 13th century having a cruciform plan with several episodes of construction. After a circuit of the curtain wall which encloses the site we departed to Dalby.

Following refreshment at the Ballachine House Hotel, the party was led downhill to Lag na Keilley [SC 216745], the ruins of a keeill perched in a hollow half-way down a steep slope with spectacular cliffs overlooking the western sea. This isolated enclosed site contains a tiny cell for the incumbent or 'culdee' which, although appearing attractive in the sunshine which blessed our weekend, must have been an ordeal in the depths of winter.

A second 'ring fort' was inspected at Ballagarmin [SC 240707] before visiting the Viking 'boat burial' at Balladoole [SC 248682]. Here, a stone outline of a ship indicated the position of an elaborate burial which excavation has shown included two corpses accompanied by an array of personal items and cremated animal bones. A surviving distribution of ship's nails suggested a vessel of about 10m length which had been buried over earlier Christian graves. There was a quick detour through Castletown before dropping some of our participants at the airport.

Thanks are due to Barry and Jenny for arranging a very enjoyable weekend and to Peter for shouldering the responsibility of leadership and making it all worthwhile. A couple of days after our visit, the local Manx press revealed a "Fantastic find of silver Viking coins and jewellery". Peter had alluded to this but because it was subject to a Coroner's inquest to determine ownership, he could not reveal any details. Perhaps that news plus the plethora of prehistoric and industrial archaeology on the island will make the members even more determined to return.

Maurice Handley

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Not many people know that the society has an archive, which is currently stored in University of Liverpool premises. The contents range from photographs and correspondence to minutes, field trip and lecture programmes, and copies of all the society's publications.

Over the last few months I have been sorting through, and making a list of, the written documents. It has been fascinating to see what were big archaeological issues in the past and how they turned out, eg the Lyceum building was saved, but some historic buildings of Clayton Square were lost.

I am appealing to you for copies of old papers that you have relating to the society. I am particularly looking for the following:

- AGM agendas and supporting documents for 1983 (7th AGM), 1988 (12th AGM) and 1989 (13th AGM)
- newsletters for 1980
- minutes and agendas for Council meetings prior to 1988
- minutes and agendas for some meetings after 1988 (ring and ask me which dates, or give me all you have and I will discard duplicates).

This is your opportunity to spring clean your attic! Please ring me (0151 733 1017) or speak to me at a lecture or field trip to let me know if you have anything to offer. Thank you very much.

Julia McLaughlin Cook

The Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter appears three times a year, in January, April and September. Contributions from members are most welcome, and should be sent to the newsletter editor, Gina Muskett, no later than 1st December 2003. Copy can be submitted either via e-mail to ginamussett@hotmail.com or as hard copy to 22 Ravenswood Road, Wirral, Merseyside, CH61 6UA, or by hand via any committee member.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 13-14 SEPTEMBER 2003

Every year the Civic Trust co-ordinates a weekend of open days throughout the country at sites of historic or architectural interest. The sites range from windmills to churches and from town halls to gas works. Many of them are not normally open to the public, such as the redundant church of St James in Toxteth, which was open to the public in 2002 for the first time in 20 years. In addition, many public attractions such as museums and historic houses put on special events for the Heritage Open days, or offer free entry.

This year Norton Priory is offering free entry to Halton Castle, Halton Village, Runcorn on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September, as well as free entry to Norton Priory Museum and Gardens. The castle tours will be running from 12 noon until 3.00 pm and booking is essential. Access to the castle is by minibus from Norton Priory.

We are looking for volunteers to help run activities at Norton Priory relating to the castle on either of these days. If you are interested, please complete the slip below or ring 0151 733 1017 as soon as possible.

Find out more about other sites which will be open on Merseyside by visiting the web site, www.heritageopendays.org.uk, or looking out for leaflets in local libraries closer to the date.

Heritage Open Days - Norton Priory 13-14 September 2003

I am interested in volunteering my help on (please delete as applicable)

Saturday..... Sunday..... Both days.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone number.....

Please return this slip to Julia McLaughlin Cook, 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 1EL

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAYS

Six members of the Society helped at this year's National Archaeology Days in Liverpool Museum, 19-20 July. There was a wide range of archaeology-based activities on offer, including pollen analysis, processing potsherds, identifying metal-detected finds, deciphering the numbers on excavated finds, and a computer-based Viking dig drawing from Meols. Members of the public of all ages joined in. Their comments will help to improve the activities when they are run again.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

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STOP PRESS: The Norman Middlewich Festival, 17-18th September

The third festival in the Middlewich series. Contact 01606 833434, email jonathan@jpawilliams.freemove.co.uk for further details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Thursday, 20th October 2005. Lecture: Dr David Woolliscroft, “Roman Military Signalling”

Thursday, 17th November 2005. Lecture: Dr Zosia Archibald, “Pheidias – The Leonardo da Vinci of Antiquity?”

Thursday, 15th December 2005. Christmas Meeting. Booking form below.

Lecture dates, Spring 2006: Thursday, 19th January 2006; Thursday, 16th February 2006;

Thursday, 16th March 2006. Further details in the next newsletter.

Annual General Meeting: Thursday, 20th April 2006.

ACTIVITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

We have had a good response to the questionnaire which was distributed to members at the end of June. If you haven't yet returned your questionnaire, there is still time to do so; post it to Julia McLaughlin Cook, 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 1EL. If you've mislaid your form, please contact Julia by telephone: 0151 733 1017 or email: mclaughlinjulia@yahoo.co.uk

LECTURE PROGRAMME, AUTUMN 2005

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: LECTURE VENUE

We have been advised that there is a possibility that our usual lecture venue, Lecture Theatre Room 1.13 of the Continuing Education Centre, 126 Mount Pleasant, The University of Liverpool, may not be available during autumn 2005. Accordingly, we are asking members to ensure that they arrive at 126 Mount Pleasant no later than 7.20 p.m. on 20th October, and 17th November, when information regarding the venue will be available on the whiteboards in the building foyer. If Room 1.13 is not available, the lecture will take place in either another room within the building or another venue on the University campus, a very short walk away. We are extremely sorry that we cannot give you more definite information at this stage.

Thursday, 20th October 2005: Please arrive at 126 Mount Pleasant no later than 7.20 p.m. "ROMAN MILITARY SIGNALLING": Dr David Woolliscroft, the University of Liverpool.

In his lecture David Woolliscroft will review Roman sites and material in both Britain and Jordan, along with ancient written sources concerning signalling. The reconstruction, and testing, of ancient signalling equipment will be described and discussed.

David Woolliscroft is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at The University of Liverpool, and Director of the Roman Gask Project. He last talked to the Society on 21st November 2002, when his subject was the Roman Gask Project.

Thursday, 17th November 2005 : Please arrive at 126 Mount Pleasant no later than 7.20 p.m. "PHEIDIAS – THE LEONARDO DA VINCI OF ANTIQUITY?": Dr Zosia Archibald, the University of Liverpool.

Pheidias was one of the most famous artists of Classical Greece. His greatest creations were among the most celebrated sculptures of antiquity - the Athena of the Parthenon and the Zeus from Olympia, to name only two. Yet he was also a highly innovative technician, interested in new materials and in combining materials in new ways. This lecture will focus on his unusual technical skills, which arguably equalled those of Leonardo.

Zosia Archibald is lecturer in Classical Archaeology in the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool, and is especially interested in Classical technology, including metallurgy and other pyrotechnical skills.

**CHRISTMAS MEETING: THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2005.
7.00 P.M. PILGRIM BAR AND BISTRO, PILGRIM STREET.**

The MAS Christmas Meeting is again being held at the **Pilgrim Bar & Bistro**, which is situated a few hundred yards downhill from the Philharmonic Hall in the section of Pilgrim Street running between Hardman Street and Mount Street. If approaching from Hardman Street, the Pilgrim is about three-quarters of the way along the right side block of buildings. The entrance is along a sloping covered walk on the right side of the building, and we have an upstairs private room with bar. Please note that the room will be open from 7.00 p.m., but not the pay bar. Drinks required at this time can be purchased from the ground floor bar. At 7.30 p.m., Eileen Willshaw, Heritage and Historic Environment Manager of the Liverpool Culture Company, will give a short talk about the events planned for 2008.

A cold buffet has been arranged at £6 per head, payable in advance, by completing the booking form on the back page of this newsletter.

BOOKS FOR SALE

After the successful book sale that was held at the AGM in April, a few books were left over. If you were unable to attend the AGM, this is your chance to snap up a bargain. All proceeds go to the Merseyside Archaeological Society.

The Archaeology of York: The Legionary Fortress, 3/1, The Church Street Sewer and an Adjacent Building, J.B. Whitwell, 1976

The Archaeology of York: The Legionary Fortress, 3/2, Interval Tower SW5 and the South-west Defences: Excavations 1972-75, A.B. Sumpter and S. Coll, 1977

The Archaeology of York: The Colonia, 4/1, Riverside Structures and a Well in Skeldersgate and Buildings in Bishophill, M.O.H. Carver, S. Donaghey and A.B. Sumpter, 1978.

The Archaeology of York: The Past Environment, 14/2, Biological Evidence from the Roman Warehouses in Coney Street, Harry K. Kenward and Dorian Williams, 1979.

The Archaeology of York: The Small Finds, 17/1, Finds from a Roman Sewer System and an Adjacent Building in Church Street, Arthur MacGregor, 1976.

The Archaeology of York: The Small Finds, 17/2, Roman Finds from Skeldersgate and Bishophill, Arthur MacGregor, 1978.

The Archaeology of York: Principles and Methods, 19/1, The Analysis of Archaeological Insect Assemblages: A New Approach, H.K. Kenward, 1978.

All the above for £1 each or £5 the set.

Various copies of *Antiquity* journal - fill the gaps in your collection!

<i>Antiquity</i> ,	September 1974,	Vol 48,	no 191
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	November 1978,	Vol 42,	no 206
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	March 1985,	Vol 59,	no 225
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	December 1996,	Vol 70,	no 270
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	June 2000,	Vol 74,	no 284
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	September 2000,	Vol 74,	no 285
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	December 2000,	Vol 74,	no 286
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	March 2001,	Vol 75,	no 287
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	September 2001,	Vol 75,	no 289
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	December 2001,	Vol 75,	no.290
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	March 2002,	Vol 76,	no 291
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	September 2002,	Vol 76,	no 293
<i>Antiquity</i> ,	September 2004,	Vol 78,	no 301

All copies of *Antiquity* for £1 each or £10 the set.

Contact Julia McLaughlin Cook on 0151 733 1017 if you are interested in buying any of the books listed above. Purchasers can collect the books at a field trip or lecture, or they can be posted (postage extra).

EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Keep up to date with the programme of events in the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool by checking the SACE web-page. Just follow the link to 'Events' from <http://www.liv.ac.uk/sace/index.htm>.

EVENTS IN AND AROUND MERSEYSIDE

CHESHIRE HISTORY DAY: 'RECORDING CHESHIRE'S LANDSCAPES' SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 2005, NORTHWICH MEMORIAL HALL

Advertised speakers: Prof. Christopher Dyer, Jonathan Pepler, Dr. Jill Collens and Peter Boughton. For full information and an application form please contact: Cheshire Local History Association, c/o Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street, Chester, CH1 1RL, tel: 01244 602559, e-mail: recordoffice@cheshire.gov.uk, or visit www.cheshirehistory.org.uk.

LIVING WITH THE ROMANS

Museum of Liverpool Life. Until 31 December 2005

As well as a full-size replica of an Iron Age roundhouse, there is an excellent display of artefacts from several local excavations.

For further details, visit www.museumofliverpoolife.org.uk/romans

REVEALING CHESHIRE'S PAST

Revealing Cheshire's Past is an exhibition prepared by Cheshire County Council which has been touring several museums in the county. The exhibition highlights the archaeology of the county of Cheshire, and each venue will include an exhibition of finds specific to the area. Autumn dates are:

10 September – 13 November 2005. Grosvenor Museum, Chester

This will include a display of the discoveries from Chester Archaeological Society's excavations at Heronbridge, two miles south of the city, which was recently featured on Channel 4's 'Time Team Big Roman Dig', and was one of the sites included in our August fieldtrip.

25 November 2005 – 15 January 2006. Norton Priory Museum & Gardens, Runcorn

GARSTON MILL

This brief "watch this space" item is to announce the imminent commencement of archaeological activity on a 13th Century mill site in Garston. Those who attended Neil Waring's lecture last season on the Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project may recall him commenting on how little is known of early Liverpool concealed below Victorian development.

An ideal opportunity has arisen to investigate this monastic fulling mill site accessible due to the clearance of houses and industrial buildings on the Railway Street site. The SMR has records referring to the mill and combined with the Garston and District Historical Societies research of early documents and local recollections of mill remains areas have been targeted for excavation.

The mill was fed by streams originating from the Woolton and Allerton areas collecting in a series of mill ponds in the Garston providing the source of water for the township's corn mill operated by Adam de Gerstan and the fulling mill used by the Monks of Stanlaw Abbey.

The original fulling mill was replaced by a later mill building c1800 which is assumed to have used the original foundations and water supply. A large brick culvert was identified leading to the mill in the early 1980's during the building of the Garston by pass. This culvert served the mill pond over which Railway Street was developed in the 1870's. The site has a change in level exactly where the mill dam was located and at this point there is sandstone masonry incorporated into later structural walls suggesting that some of the mill dam and hopefully its culvert system survive.

With the procurement procedures for an archaeology contractor complete it is hoped that the site recording work will commence shortly followed by excavation in key locations to identify any mill remains.

Recording work will take place in conjunction with the demolition process, with the bulk of the excavation probably taking place in Spring 2006.

Roy Forshaw

JOINT TRIP TO HALIFAX WITH MIHS

Our first port of call was the quaint Shibden Hall, once home of Ann Lister, who shocked her neighbours by eloping with a woman. We were shown round this much altered 15th century half timbered mansion by the exuberant Tony. The main hallway is a copy of the Old Cock Inn, birthplace of the Halifax Building Society, which was partly incorporated into the 1420 hall built by William Otes, and later owned by the Savile and Waterhouse families. The arms of all three families could be seen in the 16th century mullion windows, some of the oldest glass in Yorkshire. The hall passed into the Lister family through marriage in 1619 remaining intact until Ann Lister became the owner in 1826 and set about a major rebuilding so little, if any, of the old hall is visible today. In 1933, the hall was presented to Halifax Corporation and became a museum.

In 1953 the outbuildings were turned into the West Yorkshire Folk Museum, a forerunner of the Beamish Folk Museum in County Durham, and are now displayed as a 17th century barn and 18th century brewhouse.

After a quick lunch we were whisked off to downtown Halifax, starting at the magnificent Piece Hall. The building, which was originally a cloth market and later became a fruit and vegetable market, is now filled with quaint shops. We continued through the Woolshops area, based on one of the most ancient streets in the town, to the Mission School, whose façade is preserved in the bus station. On going up Crossley Street we were greeted by the magnificent Yorkshire stone façade of the huge Town Hall, designed by Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament. The most interesting feature of the Victorian council chamber is the huge and gorgeous stained glass roof. On leaving we passed the huge Swan Hotel, also designed by Charles Barry. The hotel was built by the Crossley family, founders of the famous local carpet firm whose Dean Clough works dominated the town. Sadly, the works closed in 1982, although the building has been regenerated and is now a thriving arts centre. We ended our tour in the huge Borough Market hall. They build big in Yorkshire, very big!

Mark Knowles

VISIT TO CAERGWRLLE CASTLE ON 17/7/05

Mark Knowles and I attended an open day at the Castle site advertised in the CBA National Archaeology Week Programme and organized by the Wirral and North Wales Field Archaeology group. Our primary interest was a 'recce' for our Field Trip in September.

The castle tour drew on the results of 1978 excavations. Two of the original dig team (now professional archaeologists in Powys) were also visiting and their recollections fueled a lively discussion about the "missing" gatehouse.

We were then led some 50m beyond and below the earthen ring work surrounding the hilltop outside the castle (which is the limit of the CADW protected site). Here there is a dig which has been in progress for a year or more led by Felicity Davies of WNWFA. The site is

difficult to describe - an area of pits and elongated depressions in the limestone bedrock partially filled with loose stones and leaf mould and overgrown with silver birch and immature oaks. These trees apparently led to the initiation of the project by the local authority after a local historian complained about root damage to "features". The excavated pits we were shown revealed at least one length of boulder built unmortared wall and an area of "cobbled" floor. Various suggestions were made as to what it represented. Two large "fallen" rocks were described as possible buttresses for a burial cairn or even a souterrain. Other more prosaic suggestions included civil war fortifications or even quarry test pits!

We were then taken to a nearby Community Centre and, after refreshments and a video presentation on the project, We were shown finds that included a fine Roman amphora rim and two pieces of "Dark Age" pottery.

Further work planned included a search for sockets for the fallen rocks. We concluded that as the site was practically without stratigraphy it must be difficult to excavate and interpret.

Roy Fletcher and Mark Knowles

BUNGALOW TO RENT IN ANGLESEY

A bungalow based at Benllech, Anglesey, near Red Wharf Bay, is available to rent at preferential rates to people with special interest or hobbies who would be able to take advantage of the setting. It sleeps six in three double bedrooms and has parking for two cars. Rates £334-692 for a full week, £217-450 weekend/mid-week. Contact details: Tel. 0151 677 5385, Mobile 07956 679996, Email paul@elmwood.flyer.co.uk.

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL

If you have any questions or queries about the Society, please contact:

Chairperson

Julia McLaughlin Cook, 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 1EL
Tel: 0151 733 1017
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The Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter appears three times a year, in January, April and September. Contributions from members are most welcome, and should be sent to the newsletter editor, Gina Muskett, no later than 1st December 2005. Copy can be submitted either via e-mail to GinaMuskett@aol.com or as hard copy to 22 Ravenswood Road, Wirral, Merseyside, CH61 6UA, or by hand via any committee member.

MAS Christmas Meeting: Thursday, 15th December 2005
7.00 p.m.: the Pilgrim Bar & Bistro

Name:

Address:

.....

..... Post Code:

Tel. No.:

I enclose payment of for ticket(s) at £6.00 each to cover the cost of the buffet. (Make cheques payable to 'Merseyside Archaeological Society').

I require (please state number) vegetarian buffet meal(s).

Please return this form no later than Monday, 5th December to:
Dr. Jenny Woodcock, 42 North Sudley Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, L17 0BG



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 1/2006

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006

Subscriptions for 2006 are now due, and a form is included on page 7 of this Newsletter. Please complete and return it with your cheque as instructed.

Cathy Jones: Membership Secretary

EVENTS FOR 2006: THE YEAR AT A GLANCE (further details below)

Thursday, 19 January, 7.30 p.m.

Lecture: “*I Will Slaughter, Butcher, And Fling To The Ground*”. Ritualised Violence In Ancient Egypt: Dr. Carolyn Routledge

Saturday, 11 February, 10.30 a.m., foyer of the Museum of Liverpool Life

Guided tour By Dr. Rob Philpott of the “Living with the Romans” exhibition.

Thursday, 17 February, 7.30 p.m.

Lecture: The Luangwa Valley Project, Zambia (Or, Archaeological Adventures In A Forgotten Rift Valley): Dr. Lawrence Barham

Thursday, 16 March, 7.30 p.m.

The Venus Figurines: Evidence For Puberty Rituals?: Hannah Hafezi

Thursday, 20 April. AGM

Saturday May 20. Fieldtrip: British Cave Art at Cresswell Crag.

Check the MAS website:

**<http://www.merseysidearchaeologicalsociety.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>
for updates and additions.**

Living With The Romans Exhibition

This popular exhibition is being extended to 26 February 2006, and Dr Rob Philpott, the curator, has agreed to give Society members a guided tour. We have arranged a Saturday morning visit to the exhibition on 11 February 2006. Meet in the foyer at the Museum of Liverpool Life, Albert Dock, at 10.30 am (no prior booking is necessary). Whether you have already been to the exhibition or not, it will be an interesting opportunity to ask questions.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2006

As the use of our traditional 'home' for guest lectures cannot be guaranteed in advance, we have a new lecture venue for 2006 – **Lecture Theatre A, on the Ground Floor of the Modern Languages Building, the University of Liverpool**. The entrance is off Chatham Street, opposite the Sydney Jones Library. Ample parking is available in the large car park off Chatham Street, or in Abercromby Square. We used this venue for our October and November lectures, and, following discussion with members who attended these talks, have decided that this is the best option available. For those who are unfamiliar with the university campus, we will be pleased to meet members in the foyer of 126 Mount Pleasant no later than 7.20 p.m., and accompany them to the Modern Languages Building, a short walk across Abercromby Square. In addition, in response to requests from Society members, we are introducing a car-sharing programme for travel to evening lectures and fieldtrips (further details on page 5 of this newsletter).

You will, no doubt, have noticed that our lecture programme for 2005-6 has concentrated on speakers from the University of Liverpool. We wanted our members to be aware of the extent of academic research being carried out in our own city.

Thursday, 19 January 2006 : lecture starts at 7.30 p.m. prompt, in Lecture Theatre A, Modern Languages Building, Chatham Street, The University of Liverpool.

***“I WILL SLAUGHTER, BUTCHER, AND FLING TO THE GROUND”*. RITUALISED VIOLENCE IN ANCIENT EGYPT**

Dr. Carolyn Routledge, SACE, The University of Liverpool

Carolyn Routledge currently is an honorary research associate at the University of Liverpool. She earned a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Toronto. She has participated in excavations in Canada, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt, most recently working at Abydos in Egypt with the University of Pennsylvania Expedition. Her research examines ancient Egyptian ritual, social organisation, and foreign relations.

Decapitation, impaling, mutilation and public exposure of corpses, mass executions, and public beatings are not activities we normally associate with ancient Egypt. However, such activities did occur and, in fact, were celebrated in monumental inscriptions and depicted on public buildings and tomb walls. The fact that we often see ancient Egypt as a rather enlightened civilisation with a general aversion to violence is, in part, created by the ancient Egyptians themselves as they had a highly developed ideology that celebrated the sanctity of life. This same ideology, however, created justifications for violence in highly ritualised settings. This talk will explore the archaeological, artistic, and textual evidence for ritualised violence in ancient Egypt and explain how this violence was justified in the ancient Egyptian society.

Thursday, 17 February 2006 : lecture starts at 7.30 p.m. prompt, in Lecture Theatre A, Modern Languages Building, Chatham Street, The University of Liverpool.
THE LUANGWA VALLEY PROJECT, ZAMBIA (OR, ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVENTURES IN A FORGOTTEN RIFT VALLEY)
Dr. Lawrence Barham, SACE, The University of Liverpool

Dr Barham (Senior Lecturer, SACE) has been involved in African archaeology for more than twenty years, and has a particular interest in the evolution of modern humans. He has been working in Zambia since 1993, excavating cave sites and is now directing the Luangwa Valley Project which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Large parts of Africa still remain to be explored by archaeologists. This simple truth is illustrated in the case of the Luangwa Valley of eastern Zambia where an interdisciplinary team from the University of Liverpool is engaged in a five-year programme of survey and excavation. The Luangwa River traverses the plateau of south-central Africa, rising in the highlands of Malawi and emptying into the Zambezi River 700 km to the south. Despite its proximity to research hotspots in eastern and southern Africa, the Luangwa Valley remains archaeological terra incognita. The Luangwa Valley Project began in June 2003 with the aim of filling some of this enormous gap in data with basic information about what kind of archaeological record is present, how old is it, and what was the environment like in the Valley during times of global climate change.

Preliminary results are emerging for some of these questions, including evidence for an early human presence at least one million years ago, as well as occupation during later periods (Middle and Later Stone Age) including the arrival of farming communities by 400 AD. DNA analyses are also underway to reconstruct the identity of indigenous hunter-gatherers at the time of contact with farmers: were they related to contemporary Bushmen or Pygmies? These and other results will be presented in the context of current issues in African archaeology along with plans for future research in the Valley.

Thursday, 16 March 2006 : lecture starts at 7.30 p.m. prompt, in Lecture Theatre A, Modern Languages Building, Chatham Street, The University of Liverpool.
THE VENUS FIGURINES: EVIDENCE FOR PUBERTY RITUALS?
Hannah Hafezi, SACE, The University of Liverpool

Hannah Hafezi is currently a second year PhD student at the University of Liverpool. Holding puberty rituals for both boys and girls is a major part of the modern hunter/gatherer way of life and her research involves examining the Upper Palaeolithic period for evidence of such rituals.

Throughout Europe, during the Upper Palaeolithic period, humans made curious female statuettes which have become known as 'Venus Figurines'. They are particularly unusual in that some of their features have been greatly exaggerated – for example their breasts and buttocks – whilst others such as their faces and their legs have been completely neglected. When these figurines were initially observed early in the last century they were interpreted as either fertility figurines or depictions of some kind of goddess whilst others considered that they may have been examples of erotica. Today, however, many more of these figurines have been found and it is clear that none of these theories can persuasively explain their appearance. Instead I suggest after analysing how modern hunter/gatherers use female figurines, that they were used as teaching aids during the puberty rituals of young girls. Holding puberty rituals for both boys and girls is a major part of the modern hunter/gatherer way of life and my research has involved examining the Upper Palaeolithic period of early prehistory for evidence of similar rituals. The characteristics of the Venuses and the contexts in which they have been found support this theory.

Thursday, 20 April 2006. AGM

Further details, plus a booking form, will be circulated in due course.

Details of further lectures in 2006, plus the Christmas meeting, will be announced in a future newsletter.

Raffle takings

October £8.20

November £12.80.

OTHER EVENTS IN AND AROUND MERSEYSIDE

Saturday, 4th March 2006

Lancaster University, Centre for North-West Regional Studies. 33rd Annual Archaeology Forum. Advance booking is essential; further details and a booking form are available on <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/cnwrs/>, or by telephone: 01524 594841.

Saturday, 29th April 2006.

Northern Ceramic Circle. 11.30 a.m., Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

A talk by Dr. Peter Davey, Reader in Archaeology and the Director of the Centre for Manx Studies, The University of Liverpool, on the subject "A Manx wreck: Adams and the West Indian market in the 1830s".

Please contact Lyn Hillis NCS's programme secretary (9 Newton Lane, Chester; e-mail:lyn.hillis@btinternet.com) if you wish to attend.

EVENTS SUBCOMMITTEE NEWS

This Autumn Barry Faulkner stood down as our Events Coordinator, a post he took over from Ken Lamb three years ago. Right now Barry, together with his daughter and her husband, may be in canoes on a fiord in New Zealand's summer. What a nice way to spend Xmas (except for the canoe part that is!) He will be back in the new year eager to tell us about it no doubt.

Shortly after taking over Barry proposed that the Council form an Events Subcommittee. I joined as it seemed mainly to involve chatting about places to visit over a convivial lunch. Then Barry snapped his fingers - we woke up and somehow we committee members were each organising a coach trip. How did he do that! No, seriously I've learnt to enjoy the challenge of researching, recce-ing and leading a well planned trip - remember Skipton! Of course, even with this delegation Barry was left with all the winter lecture programme, the AGM and the Xmas Party meeting to do himself. (It certainly increases my respect for Ken Lamb who seemed to do the whole lot, by himself, admirably for years). Nevertheless I think we owe thanks to Barry for leaving us with a structure that has widened the net for ideas, spread the workload and helped ensure continuity.

Jenny Woodcock volunteered to take the chair after Barry but, because she still has the major, major task of cajoling or bullying contributors to the Journal and organising the winter lecture programme, Elizabeth Heslewood has agreed to coordinate the Field Trip side for her.

Work on the 2006 Field Trip programme is in hand. The Weekend Away will be in September. The favourite idea is for a Roman event based in Hexham and covering the East end of the Wall including Arbeia. That leaves four monthly Saturday excursions. To contain their costs we are thinking of basing the August trip on public transport/cars e.g. a museum visit to the Leeds Armoury. Cave art, water mills and canal basins are being recce'd for the coach trips.

A final thought. If just three or four more of you had come out with us this summer we would have covered the coach excursion costs (Editor's note: see the table below). Please try and resolve to accompany us next year so that we can keep the programme going - and tell your friends!

Roy Fletcher

FIELDTRIP FINANCES 2003-04-05

Year	Fieldtrip	Place Bkgs	Refunds	Income	Expenditure		Balance
					Coach	Guides/Tickets	
2003	Liverpool 1	32	4	£56.00		£25.00	£31.00
	Northwich	25		£400.00	£225.00	£192.05	-£17.05
	Whalley	29		£377.00	£255.00	£84.00	£38.00
	Middlewich	19		£168.00	£225.00	£25.00	-£82.00
	Peak Distr.	33	1	£352.00	£285.00		£67.00
	Totals			£1,353.00	£990.00	£326.05	£36.95
2004	Hill Forts	21		£210.00	£245.00		-£35.00
	Liverpool 2	22		£44.00		£50.00	-£6.00
	Greenfield	23	1	£186.50	£245.00	£30.00	-£88.50
	Skipton	31		£460.00	£295.00	£172.00	-£7.00
	AuL / Mellor	16	1	£150.00	£245.00	£30.00	-£125.00
	Stke-on-Trnt	19		£228.00	£295.00	£47.06	-£114.06
	Totals			£1,278.50	£1,325.00	£329.06	-£375.56
2005	S.Shropshire	18		£234.00	£325.00	£20.00	-£111.00
	Lancs Halls	21		£231.00	£275.00	£35.00	-£79.00
	Halifax	28		£392.00	£295.00	£114.00	-£8.50
	Chester 3X	22		£308.00	£275.00	£70.00	-£37.00
	Denbigh	29	1	£392.00	£325.00	£30.00	£37.00
	Totals			£1,557.00	£1,495.00	£269.00	-£198.50

Please note:

Halifax was a joint trip with Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society, and the £17.00 deficit was split 50:50 between our two societies.

The annual income totals shown here differ from those in the yearly 'bookings spreadsheets', as the latter do not take account of refunds.

As Roy has pointed out, we are not covering our costs at present. The Events Sub-committee think it is important that we should try to do so in future.

BRITISH CAVE ART AT CRESSWELL CRAGS

In 2003 the first examples of British cave art were found in Church Hole cavern at Creswell Crags in Derbyshire, and Dr Paul Pettit of Sheffield University gave a talk to the Society about the cave art finds in February 2005.

Creswell Crags is a spectacular site on the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire border, where a stream cuts through a narrow gorge between towering cliffs pitted with caves. It is the best-known site in a narrow band of Magnesian limestone known as the Creswell Limestone Heritage Area that runs through South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire and North East Derbyshire.

Both Neanderthals and modern humans camped there during the last Ice Age, and modern humans returned around 8500 years ago. Extensive animal remains, and traces of human activity, have been excavated in the caves since the 19th century.

Today's visitors can take a guided tour that includes a visit to a cave, or follow a trail along the gorge and read the information boards. There is a modern visitor centre and exhibition area at the site, and ample spots for a picnic. When I visited in August, the B road that separates the two sides of the gorge was in the process of being closed, so the site appears to be expanding. The web site address is www.creswell-crags.org.uk.

The Society has arranged a trip to Cresswell Crags on Saturday May 20 2006. In addition to a guided tour of Church Hole cavern, members will also be taken around another cave (Pin Hole cave) and will be given a tour of the collections. We hope to put a link to the Cresswell Crags site on the Society's web site; look out for it.

The cost of the field trip will include a £6.50 charge for the visit. Further details about this and other trips are in the field trip programme for 2006 which will appear in Newsletter 2/2006 in the spring.

Julia McLaughlin Cook

MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks to the many members (57 in all) who took the time to respond to the questionnaire that was circulated in summer. We have been busy analysing the results in order to improve the way the Society is run. As the questionnaire was intended primarily for that purpose, we don't intend to give a detailed breakdown of all the responses in the newsletter. Here are some findings that we are acting on at once.

Evening lectures

Most respondents were happy with the date, time and frequency of the Thursday evening lectures so they will stay the same. Regular attendees will be aware that we have had to move them from the usual venue at 126 Mount Pleasant owing to problems with making advance bookings there, and they will continue to be held in the Modern Languages Lecture Theatre A in the New Year.

Field trips

Since most respondents were happy with Saturday as the day for fields trips we have no plans to change that. However, about one third of respondents said they would like a half day trip instead of a whole day, so we shall try to put on some half day trips. The visit to the Living With The Romans exhibition at the Museum of Liverpool Life in February will be the first of these (further details on page 2).

Car-sharing

Several members said that they would welcome the opportunity of a lift to Thursday evening meetings and Saturday field trips. If you would like a lift, or would like to offer a lift, please ring Julia McLaughlin Cook (0151 733 1017) with your name, address, and phone number, and she will try to match you with someone who lives in your area.

CONTINUING EDUCATION, SPRING 2006, THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

There is still time to enrol for part-time courses for Spring 2006 run by Continuing Education, The University of Liverpool. Details are available from the Centre for Lifelong Learning, 126 Mount Pleasant, telephone 0151 794 6900/6952, e-mail: conted@liverpool.ac.uk. An on-line version appears on the CE website: www.liv.ac.uk/conted/.

ANCIENT ANATOLIA CONFERENCE

All those of you with an interest in the archaeology of the Ancient Near East will be interested to hear about a conference scheduled for 31 March-1 April 2006 in the British Museum: *Transanatolia: Connecting East with West in the Archaeology of Ancient Anatolia*. Full details will shortly be available on <http://www.liv.ac.uk/sace/events/confer/transanatolia.htm>; alternatively, contact either Dr Alan Greaves at greaves@liv.ac.uk or Dr. Gina Muskett at G.M.Muskett@liv.ac.uk for further information.

The Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter appears three times a year, in January, April and September. Contributions from members are most welcome, and should be sent to the newsletter editor, Gina Muskett, no later than 1st March 2006. Copy can be submitted either via e-mail to ginamuskett@aol.com or as hard copy to 22 Ravenswood Road, Wirral, Merseyside, CH61 6UA, or by hand via any committee member.

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: 2006 Subscription Form

To: Ms. C. Jones, 8 Loretto Road, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 2BE.

I enclose my subscription for 2006 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Individual membership: £12.00

Junior: £2.00

Family: £15.00

Concessions: £7.00

Institutional: £20.00



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 1/2007

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EVENTS FOR 2007: THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME

- 15th February:** Dr Phil Freeman, “‘You can’t excavate a battlefield’. Recent Progress in Battlefield Archaeology”.
- 15th March:** Sam Hemsley “Burying granny under the floor. The strange (and possibly quite smelly) burial practices in the Early Neolithic of the Near East” **and** Dana Campbell “The end of the world as they knew it? or, the so-called collapse of Early Neolithic life in the Levant”.
- 19th April:** Annual General Meeting. Venue and speaker to be announced.

All meetings take place at 7.30 pm in the Modern Languages Building of Liverpool University, Chatham St, in Lecture Theatre A, which is on the ground floor.

SATURDAY FIELD TRIP PROGRAMME

- 19th May:** Bugsworth Canal Basin and Buxton.
- 16th June:** Medieval landscapes of Derbyshire.
- 21st July:** St Asaph and Rhuddan *burgh*.
- August:** Day trip to a museum (details to be confirmed).
- September:** Heritage Open Day Weekend walk-about. Many extra sites will be open in 2007 and our proposals for site visits will be publicised nearer the time.

Check the MAS website for updates and additions:

<http://www.merseysidearchaeologicalsociety.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME

Sorry if you missed - 18th January: Dr Jessica Pearson, "Life and Death at Catalhöyük: a Neolithic town in Anatolia".

Catalhöyük, often described as the first Neolithic town, was discovered by James Mellaart in the 1950s. Four years of excavation in the 1960s revealed a virtually unique site five times the size of Jericho. The houses were arranged in a honeycomb pattern and were highly decorated with real animal skulls, plaster relief and wall painting. The inhabitants of Catalhöyük were early farmers, herding sheep and goats and continuing to hunt animals such as aurochs, horses, pigs and birds. The burials revealed a range of practices including binding, the inclusion of grave goods, plastering of skulls, multiple burial and even decapitation ...

15th February: Dr Phil Freeman, "'You can't excavate a battlefield'. Recent Progress in Battlefield Archaeology".

To judge from its exposure in the popular media, including some recent television broadcasts, Battlefield Archaeology represents an interesting if not significant development in archaeological research. Whilst the title 'Battlefield Archaeology' is something of a misnomer, there is no denying that there are a number of archaeological projects that have made important advances in our understanding of martial engagements. In this presentation the speaker will explore, through a number of case examples drawn from both the United Kingdom and overseas, and from classical antiquity to the recent past, how the discipline is making significant contributions to the reinterpretation of seemingly well understood battles and other forms of military engagements.

15th March Sam Hemsley, "Burying granny under the floor. The strange (and possibly quite smelly) burial practices in the Early Neolithic of the Near East".

Burying members of your family under the floor of your house is slightly frowned upon these days. Digging them up and removing the skull (for display around the house) even more so. So why was this done to some of the dead in the early Neolithic of the Near East? What can the ways in which the first farmers treated one another in death tell us about how they treated one another in life?

AND Dana Campbell, "The end of the world as they knew it? or, The so-called collapse of Early Neolithic life in the Levant".

The transition from the early to late Neolithic (or the Pre-Pottery to Pottery Neolithic) in the Levant is conventionally thought to be marked by the catastrophic failure of formerly successful ways of life. To varying degrees, settlement pattern, site structure and organization, technology, and symbolic behaviour (ritual / burials) all appear to change, seemingly overnight. Of the many theories proposed to explain these changes, the focus of my research is directed at one predominant hypothesis: that the earliest farmers destroyed their local environments and were forced to leave their once-thriving settlements. Analyses have yielded surprising results, suggesting that this theory cannot explain either the comprehensive nature of the transition, nor the abandonment of particular early Neolithic villages.

For further information please contact Dave Roberts at drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk.

ROMAN NORTH EAST WEEKEND 2006

Last September members of the Society spent a very enjoyable weekend in Hexham visiting Roman sites of the North East. On Saturday we travelled by train to Newcastle to visit two forts and a museum. The first fort was Arbeia in South Shields, where stunning reconstructions of a commanding officer's house and a barracks block complement the ongoing excavations (sadly, not taking place on a Saturday). Next we went to the site of Segedunum at Wallsend, with its fine

reconstructed bath-house, a wonderful museum and the eastern starting point of Hadrian's Wall. We rounded off the day with a visit to the fascinating Museum of Antiquities at Newcastle University, the highlight of which has to be the reconstruction of a Mithraeum, complete with thunder, lightning and ghostly voice-over.

The next day we took to cars and drove slowly westward along the Wall. The first port of call was Chesters Roman Fort on the River Tyne. On a sunny hillside overlooking the remains of a Roman bridge was the actual bath house that we had seen reconstructed the previous day. Chesters also has a wonderful traditional museum with every type of inscribed stone you could wish for. After Chesters we made our separate ways to Corbridge, stopping off at different sites. Carrawburgh (the site of the actual Mithraeum depicted in the University Museum) particularly impressed me, as I had never seen a mithraeum before and had the mistaken idea that they were always hidden in cellars, whereas this looked like a very early stone-built Christian church. Sadly, truncated train time-tabling meant that I missed the final stop at Vindolanda. Many thanks to Roy Fletcher for organising the weekend. .

JMcLC

TEESDALE WEEKEND 2007

If the account of the Roman North East weekend whetted your appetite, why not come with the Society on our next weekend away to Teesdale in autumn 2007? Situated between the Yorkshire Dales to the south and Durham, the land of the Prince Bishops, to the north, Teesdale is a beautiful and relatively unknown region, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty situated in the North Pennines. From Prehistoric, Roman and early British sites to the 19th century chateau of Bowes Museum, by way of castles, abbeys and mediaval field systems, Teesdale offers an exploration of two thousand years of history in one river valley.

Further details will follow in the next issue of the newsletter.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY (CBA) AUTUMN MEETING

The CBA North West Autumn Meeting on Saturday 21 October was well attended and included a contingent from York Archaeological Trust (YAT). Speaking on the theme of "Timber! Wood and Archaeology in the North West" were Jim Innes - "Long-term vegetation change and human impact on woodland"; Ron Cowell - "A Neolithic wooden trackway at Hightown"; Mark Leah - "Water-logged remains in Cheshire towns"; Jim Spriggs - "Conservation of archaeological timber" and Steve Allen - "Recording archaeological wood". . These meetings take place twice a year and are open to non-members. If you are interested in what is going on in the region, it is certainly worth becoming a member (Tel: 01904 671417, website - www.britarch.ac.uk).

IN MEMORY OF DR MARY HIGHAM

To celebrate the work of Dr Mary Higham, who died in 2005, the Centre for North-West Regional Studies has organised a study day in Lancaster - "Landscapes and Place Names in the North". This meeting offers an opportunity to explore two of her particular passions, with a range of papers by speakers who all knew her on a personal as well as a professional basis. It will take place on Saturday 3 February 2007 at Lancaster University. For further information,

- write to Christine Wilkinson, CNWRS, Fylde College, Lancaster University, Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4YF
- ring 01524 593770 or 01524 594841,
- email christine.wilkinson@lancaster.ac.uk

The annual Lancashire Archaeology Day will take place at the same venue on Saturday 3 March 2007. Further details and a booking form can be obtained from the same address.

SHARING LIFTS TO MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

Would the person from (I think) St Helens or Prescot who rang me to ask about a lift to evening meetings please contact me again as I'm afraid I've lost your personal data (Julia, 733 1017).

EDITING THE NEWSLETTER

New contributors are very welcome to contact us with articles, reviews, letters or anything else you care to commit to paper. People with publishing skills and little scope for them, are welcome to help redesign the newsletter. If there is anything you don't like about the present version, do let us know and we'll consider changing it. Better still, **YOU** could change it. Don't be shy.

The Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter appears three times a year, in January, May and September. This issue was put together by Jenny Woodcock and Julia McLaughlin Cook. Contributions from members are most welcome, and should be sent by email to iolanthe@onetel.com, by hand via any committee member, or by post to 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 1EL

**MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:
2007 Subscription Form**

To: Ms. C. Jones, 8 Loretto Road, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 2BE.

I enclose my subscription for 2006 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name:

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

Please indicate which type of subscription:

Individual membership: £12.00

Junior: £2.00

Family: £15.00

Concessions: £7.00

Institutional: £20.00



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 2/2007

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EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME at a glance

18 th October 2007	Dr Matthew Fitzjohn	(University of Liverpool)
15 th November 2007	Dr Ashley Cooke	(World Museum Liverpool)
13 th December 2007	Christmas meeting, with a talk and slides by Dr Barry Faulkner	
17 th January 2008	Dr Eveline Van der Steen	(University of Liverpool)
21 st February 2008	Dr Matthew Ponting	(University of Liverpool)
20 th March 2008	Dr Graham Oliver	(University of Liverpool)
17 th April 2008	Annual General Meeting of the Society	

Information about the talks are given below and further information will be included in the September Newsletter.

NOTE: All our evening lectures meetings take place at 7.30 pm in the Modern Languages Building of Liverpool University, Chatham St, in Lecture Theatre A, which is on the ground floor. Members are welcome to come and have a meal at the Everyman Bistro to meet the lecturer at 6.00pm before each lecture. If there are any changes to these arrangements, they will be announced in the September Newsletter.

Parking: As many of you will have become aware, in September 2007 the University of Liverpool is planning to institute a new system of parking on the Campus. We know that there will be a number of dedicated Visitors' Car Parks and believe that a charge will be made for parking. At the time of writing we still do not know which parking areas will be designated for visitors, whether they will be available in the evenings, and indeed if and what the charges will be. It is hoped that we are able to continue to use the Modern Languages lecture theatre and that the new parking arrangements will prove convenient.

FIELD TRIPS

There are still places available on the following excursions:

1. Medieval Llanelwy (St Asaph) and Rhuddlan, N Wales.

Saturday 21st July 2007. Our guide for the day will be **Fiona Gale**, County Archaeologist, Denbighshire Centre for Lifelong Learning. **Cost £12.50.**

A **9.15am start from Pier Head** with additional Pick-up/Drop points at Bromborough Retail Park which can be booked. Coffee break at The Teapot Information Centre.

Morning: Llanelwy (St Asaph) A monastic settlement (possibly the site of the "missing" Roman fort of Varae?) founded by Saints Kentigern (Mungo) and Asaph in the 6th century. Destroyed several times in war, much of the present structure of Britain's smallest ancient cathedral may be the work of one of Edward I's castle builders at the beginning of the 14th century. The present interior owes much to Sir Gilbert Scott in the 19th century. There is also a 16th century Parish Church and a row of 17th century almshouses now a café.

Lunch: We will move to nearby Rhuddlan where there are several cafes and hostleries.

Afternoon; Rhuddlan The lowest crossing of the Clwyd and much fought over between British (Welsh) and Saxon since at least the time of Offa. Three phases of defended settlement can be traced up to Edward's castled township for English colonists. As well as the castle, the Parish Church of St Mary (Sir Gilbert Scott again!) dates its foundation to the late 12th century. From the 11th century there is the prominent motte of the Norman tough Robert of Rhuddlan and there are fragments of a Dominican Friary.

Fiona Gale will discuss the castle from outside but there should be time after her tour to visit the inside. CADW/English heritage cards or £2.90 (£2.50 concessions)

If you wish to book for this trip, please fill in the appropriate slip at the end of the Newsletter and send it with the correct amount as soon as possible to: **MAS Field Trips, 15 Thistledown Close, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 7ER**

2. Museum Trip to Sheffield (note change of venue) Saturday 18th August 2007

There will be a trip by public transport to Weston Park Museum in Sheffield. The museum, which opened in 1875 to house the city's archaeology, natural history, decorative art and social history collections, has just re-opened after £19 million renovation. Sheffield's collection dates from the Palaeolithic age (about half million years ago) to the 19th century and includes material from all over world. It is particularly strong in Neolithic, Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon grave groups from the local region. It includes Anglo-Saxon burial assemblages, most notably the Benty Grange Helmet, the first Anglo-Saxon helmet to be found in Britain. For further information about the museum, visit www.sheffieldgalleries.org.uk.

If you are interested in joining this excursion, please contact Roy Fletcher for further details by **31st July** (Tel: 0151 727 3601).

Merseyside Archaeological Society - Annual General Meeting

On 19th April 2007 the thirty-first Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Modern Languages Building of the University of Liverpool. The following officers were elected: Barry Faulkner, Chairperson, Dave Roberts, Secretary and Roy Fletcher, Treasurer. Jenny Woodcock agreed to become editor of the newsletter and Pauline Roberts, agreed to take the role of Membership Secretary.

The posts of Deputy Chair and Events Secretary were not filled but Julia McLaughlin Cook has since volunteered to take over as Events Secretary for next season. This will have to be ratified at an EGM, probably concurrent with the first lecture of the 2007-2008 session.

The following people were elected to the Council: Roy Forshaw, Bill Highcock, Len Kata, Mark Knowles, Gina Muskett, Pauline Roberts and Eveline Van der Steen. Cathy Tomlinson, Elisabeth Heslewood, Rob Philpott and Ken Lamb stepped down from the Council. We thank them for their contribution to the Society's running.

The Treasurer reported that on 6 April the Society had £6334.41 in the Current account and £7991.72 in the Savings Account. The money in the Current Account included the £4540 granted by Liverpool City Council and the Capital of Culture Company for the "The Changing Face of Liverpool" project.

After the AGM, Dr Gina Muskett gave a talk on the Liverpool University's Classical collection which is located at 14 Abercromby Square in the recently-renamed Garstang Museum. The collection will continue to be on display at this address after the new University Museum opens in Victoria Hall, Brownlow Hill.

Publication of *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1770*

One of the earliest publications that the Society was involved in producing was in 1981, *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1727*. The book has been widely used by historical researchers in the city, while the format of its maps has been copied by more than one local author. It is now out of print and it had been thought for some time that a new version was overdue. The book reflected the state of archaeological knowledge at the beginning of the 1980s and included findings from the Castle Street dig in which the Society played a large part, but since that date excavation and research had moved on.

Last year the conditions were ripe to undertake a revision as an anonymous donor gave the Society £1000 for publication purposes, and shortly afterwards the Society applied for, and was awarded, a grant of ~~£4540~~ by the City of Culture Company 'In The City Programme' and Liverpool City Council. Working over the last six months, ten members of the Society have carried out the necessary research and, on 25th May, *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1770* was launched. This new version is not just an update of *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1727*. As the title suggests, the scope of the book has been extended a further forty years to reflect the rapid expansion of Liverpool in the middle of the 18th century as is shown by a comparison between John Chadwick's plan of

1725 (the latest map in *The Changing Face... 1207-1727*) with George Perry's plan of 1769 (the final map in *The Changing Face... 1207-1770*). All the maps and keys have been completely redrawn and introductory passages have been written on trade and industry, municipal development and such social issues as churches to markets.

We have all enjoyed carrying out the work and have learnt a great deal from the experience. We hope that you will be pleased with the finished result, which represents the Society's contribution to Liverpool's 800th birthday. It has nearly doubled in size and now contains 80 pages, many with full-colour illustrations. It's a snip at £5!

How can you get your hands on a copy? Many, many ways:-

- It will be on sale at the Society's stand at Liverpool History Fair on 15-16-17 September in St George's Hall.
- You can ask one of the organisers of the Saturday field trips to bring along a copy (July 16 or August 19).
- You can obtain it by post from Merseyside Archaeological Society, 3 Calton Avenue, Liverpool, L18 1EL (a cheque for £6 including £1 postage and packing payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society please).
- It will be available at our monthly lecture meetings in the autumn and winter.

Liverpool Heritage Forum

Three years ago a number of voluntary heritage and culture groups got together to discuss what contribution they could make to the celebrations of Liverpool's 800th Birthday in 2007 and the Capital of Culture Year 2008. They decided to set up the Heritage Forum as a co-ordinating body with the main purpose of allowing society members to meet each other, discover common aims and eliminate clashes of programmes. Another function of the Forum has been to arrange meetings between members of these voluntary bodies and members of the Council, the City of Culture Company and statutory heritage bodies.

In March this year there was a discussion of how to present the history of Liverpool Castle and the Seven Streets to both the people of the city and visitors. On 10 May there was a presentation about the contribution of the Welsh, Irish and Black communities to the Diversity of Liverpool. The speakers were Dr Ben Rees (Welsh), Dr Ian McKeane (Irish) and Mr Lawrence Westgaph (Black).

The **Heritage Forum** produces a monthly electronic newsletter which is well worth looking at as it lists many forthcoming heritage activities. If you wish to receive this, all you need to do is to send your email address to zoom2222@btinternet.com. It is also worth looking at the Forum's website at <http://www.Liverpoolheritageforum.org.uk>, which is up-dated regularly.

Journals received

Liverpool History Society has donated a copy of the Liverpool History Society Journal (No. 6) 2007 to the Society in exchange for a copy of *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1770*. It is a special issue produced to commemorate Liverpool's 800th anniversary and contains many interesting articles covering the past 800 years in Liverpool. It can be borrowed from the Secretary, Dave Roberts, at evening lectures, as can the bi-monthly journal *British Archaeology*, which the Society receives regularly as a member of the Council for British Archaeology. For further details about the Liverpool History Society and their publications see their website www.liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk or email to enquiries@liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS and EMAIL CONTACT

The Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter currently appears three times a year, in January, May and September. It is, however, our intention to experiment over the next twelve months by increasing the number of issues to four. By this means, we hope to be able to keep members abreast of our lectures and field trips programme and any additions to the programme of events. The newsletters will appear in March together with the AGM papers and details of our summer fieldtrip programme, in June, in September to provide information about our lecture series and again in December.

NOTE: Whilst we appreciate that not all members have email, we do know that many of you are computer orientated and it would help us greatly if we were able to circulate the Newsletter by this means in future. Please can any members who do have email addresses and who would be willing to receive communications from us by this means, send us their email address. Please contact the editor, Jenny Woodcock on iolanthe@onetel.com with the details.

We would welcome new contributors to the Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the Editor with information which may be of interest to other members, articles, reviews, appropriate advertisements, letters or anything else you care to commit to paper. Future contributions should be sent by email to iolanthe@onetel.com, submitted by hand via any committee member, or by post to 42 North Sudley Road, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 0BG. Tel: 0151 727 8243. In addition, anyone with publishing skills, and little scope for them, would be very welcome offer suggestions and to help redesign the newsletter. If there is anything you don't like about the present version, please do let us know and we'll consider changing it.

This issue was put together by Jenny Woodcock with considerable input from Julia McLaughlin Cook.

Members are recommended to check the MAS website for updates and additions:
<http://www.merseysidearchaeologicalsociety.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/> For further details about our website, please contact Dave Roberts at drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk.

SATURDAY 21st JULY - ST ASAPH/RHUDDLAN, DENBIGHSHIRE

Name (Capitals please).....

Address

Phone.....Email.....

Mobile (if you will have it with you on the day).....

PICK-UP POINT Pier Head.....or Bromborough Retail Pk.....

Number of seats.....at £12.50 each Total £

Please complete this slip and send it to MAS Field Trips, 15 Thistledown Close,
Aigburth, Liverpool L17 7ER

FRIDAY 21st to SUNDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER - TEESDALE WEEKEND

Name (Capitals please)

Address.....

Phone.....Email.....

Mobile (if you will have it with you for the weekend).....

Number of people booking.....Coming by car?.....

Please complete this slip and send it with a £5 deposit for each person by 30th June to:
MAS TEESDALE VISIT, 3 Calton Avenue, Liverpool, L18 1EL.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 3/2007

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Deaths and memorials	p 5
Future Newsletters and application form for Christmas meeting	p 5

THE EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME at a glance. Information about the venue for the evening meetings, detailed summaries of the talks and up-to-date information about car parking are given overleaf.

18th October 2007 Dr Matthew Fitzjohn, School of Classics, Archaeology and Egyptology, University of Liverpool. *"Grand designs: Explorations of the form, function and experience of domestic space in the Ancient Greek world"*.

NOTE: This meeting is also an **Additional General Meeting**, called in order to confirm Julia McLaughlin Cook's appointment as the Events Secretary as required under our Constitution.

15th November 2007 Dr Ashley Cooke, World Museum Liverpool. *"Liverpool, Egypt and Beyond"*.

13th December 2007 Christmas meeting, with a talk and slides by our Chairman, Dr Barry Faulkner. *"The history and archaeology of New Zealand"*.

17th January 2008 Dr Eveline Van der Steen, School of Classics, Archaeology and Egyptology, University of Liverpool. *"Bedouin landscape and poetry"*.

21st February 2008 Dr Matthew Ponting, School of Classics, Archaeology and Egyptology, University of Liverpool. *"Beauty is only skin deep: deception, coinage and chemistry under the Roman Empire"*.

20th March 2008 Dr Graham Oliver, School of Classics, Archaeology and Egyptology, University of Liverpool. *"Remembering the war dead: monuments and the individual in ancient and modern societies"*.

17th April 2008 **Annual General Meeting of the Society**

EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2007/2008

All our evening lecture meetings take place at 7.30 pm in Lecture Theatre A in the Modern Languages Building of Liverpool University, Chatham Street. The lecture theatre is on the ground floor. Members are welcome to joint council members and come and have a meal at the Everyman Bistro to meet the lecturer at 6.00pm before each lecture.

Parking: As many of you will have become aware, this September the University of Liverpool is planning to institute a new system of parking on the Campus. We know that there will be a number of dedicated Visitors' Car Parks and believe that a charge will be made for parking. At the time of writing we are still unclear which areas will be designated as parking for visitors but it seems likely that the large car park near to the Modern Languages Building will be one of them. We still have no information on the evening charges. We hope as that we will continue to use the nearby Modern Languages lecture theatre for our meetings that the new parking arrangements will prove suitable. If necessary, perhaps we could discuss car sharing or other alternative arrangements at the first meeting. **Please do come, don't be discouraged by the new arrangements.**

18th October 2007

Dr Matthew Fitzjohn "Grand designs: Explorations of the form, function and experience of domestic space in the Ancient Greek world"

The talk will be based on work that Matthew has been undertaking on Greek Settlement and domestic space during both the Iron Age and Archaic periods. He is going to focus on a number of sites in Sicily where Greek settlements started to appear during the eighth and seventh centuries BC. He has been using various different forms of computer visualization to reconstruct the form and use of settlements and domestic space. Following the main thrust of his talk he would like to discuss aspects of Greek material culture and the concepts of home and daily life.

15th November 2007

Dr Ashley Cooke "Liverpool, Egypt and Beyond"

The lecture will illustrate 150 years of the close relationship between Liverpool and the study of ancient Egyptian civilisation and other neighbouring cultures of the Middle East. Commencing with the 'Egyptian Musuem', opened in 1852 by Joseph Mayer the lecture will follow the development of Egyptology in Liverpool and how this subject has even influenced the architecture of this grand city.

13th December 2007

The Christmas meeting. Barry Faulkner will give a short talk on the history and archaeology of New Zealand. The presentation will be illustrated by slides taken on his most recent visit to New Zealand. See below for further information about venue.

17th January 2008

Dr Eveline Van der Steen "Bedouin landscape and poetry"

At first sight, Bedouin poetry may not be the most obvious source of information for archaeologists. However, in recent years archaeology has become more and more concerned with the interaction of human activity and landscape: how we influence our landscape by being there, working the land, building houses and other structures, making our roads through it, living and dying in it. On the other hand, the landscape itself determines to a large extent where we live, and how we organize our lives.

It was no different in the past. Therefore, in order to understand why people lived where and how they did, we need to understand how they interacted with the landscape. Bedouin poetry can be a useful tool in that, as it tells us much about the landscape in which the people lived, as well as how they viewed it – what hills, and trees, and water, heat and cold, meant to them. I shall look at landscape as memory, as territory, as metaphor, and at the meaning of the changing landscape.

21st February 2008

Dr Matthew Ponting

“Beauty is only skin deep: deception, coinage and chemistry under the Roman Empire”. At the time of writing the summary of this talk has not been received but will be included in the next Newsletter.

20th March 2008

Dr Graham Oliver

“Remembering the war dead: monuments and the individual in ancient and modern societies”. At the time of writing the summary of this talk has not been received but will be included in the next Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS MEETING - 13th December 2007

Following the success of the Christmas meeting last year it has been decided that we will hold our Christmas meeting at the Piazza (below the Metropolitan Cathedral) again this year. The full details including the menu and the cost have not yet been confirmed but it would be helpful if those of you who are likely to want to come could complete the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter and the details will be sent to them when they become available.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURES

Details of any lectures organised by the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology which may be of interest to members of the Society will be circulated at the evening lectures. Information can also be accessed through the University SACE website.

ASSISTANCE WANTED for archaeological project.

The Calderstones project.

Some time ago the Merseyside Archaeological Society learned that it had been successful in securing a further Capital of Culture grant to undertake a community project connected with the Calderstones. There are three elements to the project which needs to be completed by 31st March 2008.

- 1 A detailed digital photographic survey or the ‘art’ on the six standing stones (known as the Calderstones) which are currently located within a greenhouse in Calderstones Park. A professional archaeologist who is a leading expert in the archaeology of rock-art will be supervising this element of the work.
- 2 A survey of various other historic landmarks within the vicinity. This part of the project will involve documentary research followed by fieldwork in order to attempt to locate the position of the sites on the ground using surveying equipment, sighting devices etc. It is expected that the results of this fieldwork will also be tested by geo-physical methods.

3 An updated version of the Calderstones booklet which was produced in the 1980s by Ron Cowell and, possibly a video produced by students from Liverpool Community College.

The Merseyside Archaeological Society is currently engaging with a local school and there is an expectation that about a dozen students will be undertaking some of the activities described in section 2 above. They will be working under the supervision of their teachers and members of the Society.

NOTE: There is, potentially, a huge amount of documentation which could be useful in relation to this study as the area around the original site of the Calderstones is where the ancient boundaries of the townships of Allerton, Wavertree and Little Woolton met. An initial trawl through what is available has already revealed reference to a boundary marker which could be a standing stone formerly within the ancient landscape lying just outside the park. **We need the assistance of about six individuals to help with the documentary research.** This work will be ongoing from September to December and will be based around documents located primarily in Liverpool Record Office. The results will be used to update the SMR/HER maintained by Merseyside Archaeology Services. Volunteers may have the opportunity to participate in/observe other aspects of the project.

No prior experience is required, only the commitment to see the work through. It will probably take one day a week, working in a group or individually, starting in mid-September. There will be some money available to cover travelling costs and materials (photocopying etc.).

If you are interested, please contact Dave Roberts (drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk)

WIRRAL COMMUNITY DIG

Wirral's first community dig will take place from September 24th and will attempt to recover evidence of settlement at Meols and Leasowe. The work is being led by Dr Rob Philpott and funded by Wirral Council. Further details can be obtained from Dr Liz Stewart on 0151 478 4443.

CHRISTMAS GIFT - *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1770*

We hope that you are pleased with the finished result, which represents the Society's contribution to Liverpool's 800th birthday. This project was funded by a Capital of Culture grant and work was completed by members of the Society under the guidance of Dave Roberts and Julia McLaughlin Cook and the work was published and launched on 25th May of this year. It has nearly doubled in size and now contains 80 pages, many with full-colour illustrations. It will make an ideal Christmas present for friends and family and is excellent value at only £5.00 a copy.

Copies of the book are available by post from Merseyside Archaeological Society, 3 Calton Avenue, Liverpool, L18 1EL (a cheque for £6 including £1 postage and packing payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society please). The volume will also be available at our monthly lecture meetings in the autumn and winter.

In memory of MARGARET WARHURST

As many of you will be aware, Margaret Warhurst, one of our founder members and a good friend to the Society, died in March of this year following a period of illness. The Society was represented at her funeral on the Isle of Man earlier this year and it has been decided to dedicate the next volume of the Journal to her memory. Margaret was the Director of Norton Priory Museum and Gardens from 1987 to 2000. Norton Priory Museum have planned to raise the sum of £3000 in order to create a lasting memorial to her, a sculpture that will be used as a seat in the Walled Garden, an area very close to her heart. The work will be unveiled on 11 April 2008, Margaret's birthday. Whilst a sum of money is to be sent in the name of the Merseyside Archaeological Society, anyone wishing to make a personal donation should make their cheque payable to 'Norton Priory Museum Trust' and send it to Clare McDade, Director, Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, Tudor Road, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1SX.

In memory of ROBINA MCNEIL

Many members will be greatly saddened to learn of the early death of Robina McNeil, Country Archaeologist and Director of the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit in August of this year. Robina will be remembered by members here on Merseyside mainly for her work on the South Castle Street excavations in 1976 and 1977. The Society was represented at Robina's funeral in Norwich, but there is to be a memorial service at Manchester Cathedral at 3.00pm on Friday 26th October. Everyone will be welcome.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS and EMAIL CONTACT

The Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter appears four times a year in March, June, September and December. The September and December editions will provide information of our lecture series and the March newsletter will include the AGM papers and details of our summer fieldtrip programme. We always welcome contributors to the Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the Editor with information which may be of interest to other members, articles, reviews, appropriate advertisements, letters or anything else you care to commit to paper. Future contributions should be sent by email to iolanthe@onetel.com - submitted by hand via any committee member, or by post to 42 North Sudley Road, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 0BG. Tel: 0151 727 8243.

Members are recommended to check the MAS website for updates and additions:
<http://www.merseysidearchaeologicalsociety.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/> For further details about our website, please contact Dave Roberts at drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk.

.....

Christmas meeting - 13th December 2007

I would be interested in receiving further information

Name, address and phone number

.....

To: Julia McLaughlin Cook, 3 Calton Avenue, Liverpool L18 1EL.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 1/2008

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THURSDAY EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME

17th of April AGM and a talk by Sarah-Jane Farr , Merseyside Archaeological Service: '*The Silk Road – where East meets West*'

SATURDAY OUTINGS PROGRAMME 2008

17th May Pendle Vaccaries (medieval ox-breeding ranches)

21st June Hungate excavations, York

19th July Lichfield Cathedral and town

9th August Walk to Hilbre Island. .

* See end page for details

19-21 September Weekend in West Wales based at St Davids, with guided tours of Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort and other sites in Pembrokeshire.

See bookings form for details

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

Saturday 18 October at Liverpool Hope University, Childwall, Liverpool
Building the Future, Revealing the Past: The Archaeology of Merseyside 1750 to 1900. This is a follow-up to the Society's two previous conferences: *A Quarter Century of Archaeology on Merseyside*, (2001) and *The Archaeology of Merseyside 1500 to*

1750 (2003). Further information and a booking form will be sent out with the next newsletter.

Annual General Meeting.

This our final meeting of the winter season. It is to be held on Thursday 17th of April at 7.30 pm in the ground floor Lecture Theatre A in the Modern Languages Building, Liverpool University, Chatham Street. You will find the papers enclosed with this Newsletter; the accounts will be tabled on the evening. Following the short business meeting, our speaker is to be Sarah-Jane Farr of the Merseyside Archaeological Service and the subject of her talk is. '*The Silk Road – where East meets West*' Visitors will be welcome to attend the meeting as usual.

As always, before public meetings, all members of the Society are very welcome to join council members and the speaker for a meal at the Everyman Bistro. We meet at 6.00pm and usually try to get a table in the third room in the Everyman. Everyone is welcome - please do come and join us.

Report from the St Helens area

The following report, which will be of interest to members, was received in December from Bill Highcock, our St Helens representative. We apologise that there has been no opportunity to circulate this information until this Newsletter.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

'In 2007 the St Helens Conservation Officer circulated a letter to the Parish Councils regarding the District Council's intention to update its records of all buildings on the List of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Borough and asked for details of any buildings that we consider being worth including. It is my intention to suggest that the list should include buildings known to have been involved in the manufacture of clay tobacco pipes; there are four such buildings, all now residences: one in Eccleston and three in Rainford. In addition I will be asking for Crank Hall to be listed. There are at present 160 Listed Buildings in St Helens and a complete set has been provided for the Historical Society, SCARS and Merseyside Archaeological Society'.

'At a recent planning meeting we dealt with an application to change the use of the barn at the east end of Guild Hall Farm, Crank, to a residence. This barn, circa 1628, is thought to be the original farmhouse and came under scrutiny in the 1980s by Gill Chitty. The stone walls are of particular interest in that they are built with thin slabs of weathered sandstone laid in horizontal courses. There is only one other example of this type of stonework in the area, number one Crank Road, which is on my list for listing because it incorporates the only remaining pipe shop and pottery in Rainford'.

Stanley Bank.

We have recently received the good news that further funding has been granted in order that investigations may continue at Stanley Bank. Bill Highcock has a copy of the Stanley

Bank Excavation Report August 2007, should anyone wish to see it. Members will be kept informed of progress and any excavation opportunities which may arise here.

Excavations on the Bryn Iorcyn Estate.

Wirral and North Wales Archaeology have begun excavating on the Bryn Iorcyn estate, near Cymau in North Wales. The manor house here is of 14th-century date and the house and gardens are under the protection of CADW. The land was granted to the deJong family by Edward I. The owners, Mr and Mrs Carstensen want to know what was there before the house was built. A resistivity survey has been completed and to date a very large circular feature has been identified. There is a lot of broken stone lying just below the surface so a good deal of hard work is anticipated. The site itself is very beautiful with amazing views over the Cheshire Plain and on a clear day, Blackpool Tower is also said to be visible. Members of other archaeological and historical societies are being invited to take part in the excavation and ongoing survey. Work will be taking place most weekends (weather permitting) and possibly at other times.

Please note that there are no toilets (but plenty of places to hide) and participants will need to bring their own food and drink. If you are interested in joining Wirral and North Wales Archaeology please contact Felicity Davies for further information and directions on 07841 875410.

Publication News

The new booklet on the Calderstones is complete and is now at the printers. It is hoped that it will be available within the next four weeks and, if all goes according to plan, it may be available for sale at the AGM, or shortly thereafter. The book is in full colour and is lavishly illustrated with stunning photographs of the stones. It is expected that the more detailed aspects of the project will be written up and published in Volume 13 of the Society's journal but there is still some research to be done before this article is ready. Work on this paper will resume later in the summer once Volume 12, which is now virtually ready for publication, goes to the printer in about three months time.

Overdue Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2008 were due in January of this year. **If you are one of those who have not yet renewed your membership**, you will find that a renewal form has been included with these papers. Please could you complete it and send it to Pauline Roberts as soon as possible.

University Parking: and Evening Lectures

As many of you will have become aware, the University of Liverpool has instituted a new system of parking on the Campus. There is a charge of £2 for the first two hours, rising thereafter by £1 for each additional hour. In order to enter the car park you will need to take a ticket from the machine which will raise the barrier. When you come to

leave you will need to insert the ticket into the pay station and pay the charge in order to validate it for exit. There is a "Help" button (which is constantly manned we are told) in case of problems. Members may find free parking close by in Chatham Street, at their own risk.

We have already noticed a drop in attendance at the lecture meetings which we assume maybe due to the new arrangements but please do not be put off, the parking system is simple.

If anyone is experiencing has problems with attending meeting, please do not hesitate to telephone Jenny Woodcock (0151 727 8243); Julia McLaughlin Cook (0151 733 1017) or Barry Faulkner (0151 494 9809). We may be able to help.

The Newsletter

The Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter now appears four times a year, in March, June, September and December. The September and December issues will provide information of our winter evening lecture series, the March Newsletter will include the AGM papers and details of our summer field trip programme. This issue was put together by Jenny Woodcock and various members of the Council of the Society. Contributions from members are most welcome, and should be sent by email to iolanth@onetel.com, by hand via any committee member, or by post to 42 North Sudley Road, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 0BG or to 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18 1EL.

Newsletter distribution for those who have supplied an e-mail address

In order to reduce costs we plan to send the newsletter in future by e-mail. If you have changed your e-mail address recently and do wish to receive your newsletter and other communications via e-mail please let me know your new details. Would those who prefer to continue to receive their newsletter by post please contact me and I will arrange this. For those of you without e-mail we will, of course, continue to post your newsletter as usual. Pauline Roberts - drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

Information about activities in which the Merseyside Archaeological Society is involved together with details of lectures and other items of interest to members are regularly included in our website. Members are recommended to check the MAS website for updates and additions:

<http://www.merseysidearchaeologicalsociety.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

Further information is also available from Dave Roberts on drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

**MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SATURDAY OUTINGS PROGRAMME 2008**

Saturday 17th May Pendle Vaccaries

Departure from Mann Island: 9.15am. Extra pick-up at Old Roan, toilet stop at Blackburn Services.

Programme:

Pendle Heritage Archaeology Group will take us on the trail of medieval vaccaries (ox-breeding ranches where oxen were raised for ploughing) near Barrowford, north east Lancashire. The programme includes an introductory talk and cup of tea and a guided tour of Higherford Mill, a former cotton mill. In the afternoon there will be a chance to look round Pendle Heritage Centre, situated in a 16th-18th century farm house (admission charge).

Information:

Wear shoes for walking over rough terrain and bring wet weather gear. A picnic lunch is recommended as there is only a small refreshment kiosk at our lunch stop.

Cost £13.50.

Saturday 21st June Hungate excavations, York.

Departure from Mann Island: 9.15 am. Extra pick-up at the Gardner's Arms

Programme:

Peter Connolly, the director of excavations will show us round the excavations at 12.00 pm. As you may have read, they are uncovering 19th century housing and workshops. Since there are plenty of attractions in York, the afternoon has been left free for people to follow their own interests.

Cost £13.00.

Saturday 19th July Lichfield Cathedral and Town

Departure from Mann Island: 9.15 am. Toilet stop at Keele Services.

Programme: Tour of Lichfield Cathedral, 2.00 pm. Excavations in the nave 2003-06 uncovered remains of an Anglo-Saxon church and the Lichfield Angel, believed to be part of the shrine built by Bishop Hedda in 700 to house the remains of St Chad. Behind the cathedral is the Erasmus Darwin Centre, dedicated to the life and thinking of an 18th century polymath who was a friend of James Watt and Mathew Boulton and grandfather of Charles Darwin. I have not booked a tour but if more than 10 people would like to visit we can pay the reduced entry charge of £2 per head.

Cost £16.00.

Saturday 9th August Hilbre Island

Departure from the slipway at West Kirby about 9.45 am.

Christine Longworth will lead a walk to Hilbre Island, the site of recent archaeological investigations.. We will be on the main island for about three hours.

Information: Wear shoes for walking over rough and damp terrain and bring wet weather gear and a picnic lunch.

Toilets are being installed on Hilbre and they should be operational by the summer.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 2/2008

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SATURDAY PROGRAMME

Saturday 9th August Hilbre Island

Departure from the slipway at West Kirby about 9.45 am.

Christine Longworth will lead a walk to Hilbre Island, the site of recent archaeological investigations.. We will be on the main island for about three hours.

Wear shoes for walking over rough and damp terrain and bring wet weather gear and a picnic lunch. A new toilet has been installed on Hilbre in time for the summer.

Note: Although there is no charge, we would be grateful if you would fill in a booking form if you intend to come as we need to inform the warden of Hilbre of anticipated numbers.

WEEKEND PROGRAMME

19-21 September Weekend in West Wales based at St Davids, Pembrokeshire, with visits to Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort, and sites from prehistory to the industrial period.

If you intend to come on this weekend, there is still time to book but hurry as the hotel is filling up fast. You will find a booking form at the end of the newsletter.

18 October One day conference “Building the Future, Revealing the Past: The Archaeology of Merseyside 1750 to 1900”
Liverpool Hope University, Childwall, Liverpool.

Further information is given below and a booking form and more information is included with this Newsletter

THURSDAY EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2008

- 16th October** Dr Roger White, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director Institute of Archaeology & Antiquity, Birmingham, and Academic Director, Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.
'Reconstructing a Viking Community: recent work on the Neston Crosses'
- 20th November** Dr Richard Benjamin. Head of the International Slavery Museum, Liverpool
'The International Slavery Museum: an active campaigner'.
- 11th December** Christmas meeting - Diana Goodier
'Viking and Saxon Re-enactment: Experimental archaeology?'

IMPORTANT NOTE:

From October evening lectures will take place at the new **Friends Meeting House at 22 School Lane**, off Hanover Street, near the Bluecoat Centre. Meetings will be held in The Institute Room on the first floor. All our evening lectures begin at 7.30 pm and finish round about 9.00 pm (we can stay longer as the room is booked till 10.00 pm).

We hope that more members will find this venue accessible as it is close to Central, James Street and Lime Street railway stations and to Queen Square bus station. As car parking arrangements are changing all the time due to the redevelopment of the city centre, we suggest you try the Friends Meeting House website link (www.liverpoolquakers.org.uk) for up-to-date car parking information but the existing multi-storey car parks in the city centre are only a brief walking distance away.

As there is a small kitchen attached to the room we would like to invite you all to enjoy tea or coffee and biscuits from 7.00 pm on 16 October.

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER – One day conference

“BUILDING THE FUTURE, REVEALING THE PAST: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MERSEYSIDE 1750 TO 1900”

Our previous conferences in 2001 and 2003 reviewed the archaeology of Merseyside from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods. This conference continues the chronological theme to examine the period *circa* 1750 to 1900 and beyond. Given the vast amount of knowledge about the more recent historical periods, combined with the developer-driven nature of most recent archaeological activity in Merseyside, we decided on a different approach. Instead of offering overviews of the current state of

archaeological knowledge about topics such as trade or the development of towns, we have taken as our starting point archaeological work that has been carried out on particular sites, with a special emphasis on the redevelopment and regeneration of the centre of Liverpool.

We see this as an opportunity to bring to wider public notice the results of work that attracted a lot of attention while it was ongoing. Some of the findings appeared in the recent "Time Team" special "The Lost Dock of Liverpool" and this will be your chance to question the excavators.

Our new venue, Liverpool Hope University, has been warmly recommended. You may have seen it on Television when it recently hosted the international conference "The Big Hope". The Childwall site lies four miles from Liverpool city centre near the start of the M62. There is ample free car parking and it is on several bus routes. Full details of how to get there will be sent out to those who book. The papers delivered at the conference will be published in a future issue of the *Journal of Merseyside Archaeological Society*.

Registration will start at 9.00 am and the conference proceedings at 9.30 am. The conference will last till 5.00 pm with an hour for lunch. The fee for Merseyside Archaeological Society members is £14 without lunch and £20 with lunch. For non-members the fee is £16 without lunch and £22 with lunch. Please send your booking form and fee by 4 October (with lunch) or 11 October (without lunch). Although it will be possible to pay on the day it will not be possible to order lunch then.

Please see the enclosed booking form and programme for the full details.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

Once again we have booked our Christmas meeting and evening meal at the popular Piazza Café, Mount Pleasant. It will take place on Thursday 11th December at 7.00 pm, Our speaker on this occasion will be Diana Goodier, a member of the Society with a keen interest in historical re-enactment. In the persona of a wise woman and healer she has taken part in living history events at many venues including Croxteth Hall and Prenton Rugby Club. Please complete the booking form on page 5 if you wish to attend.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

1 Museum Exhibitions Past, Present and Future

The First Emperor of China's Terracotta Warriors came to the British Museum and moved on. When I suggested visiting the exhibition as a group a couple of newsletters ago I had no idea that the exhibition would prove so popular and I am sorry if I dashed anyone's hopes. I finally got to the exhibition at 9.30 pm on a Saturday night in March as all the more convenient viewing times had sold out. It was fascinating to see the variety of objects that accompanied the warriors, including terracotta musicians, scribes and birds, and reconstructed wooden carriages.

This year's big summer exhibition at the British Museum will be **Hadrian: Empire and Conflict**, which runs from 24 July to 28 October 2008. The exhibition will explore the life, love and legacy of Rome's most enigmatic emperor, Hadrian (reigned AD 117–138). On display will be objects from 31 museums worldwide and finds from recent excavations that will provide fresh insight into the sharp contradictions of Hadrian's character and challenges faced during his reign. Full price tickets are £12 and concessions are available.

Closer to home, Lindow Man has returned to Manchester Museum for a year from April 2008. The discovery of the preserved body of a man in a peat bog at Lindow Moss, Cheshire, in 1984 raised many questions. The man at the centre of the story remains a mystery, despite the efforts of archaeologists, historians, forensic scientists and museum curators. In this new, free exhibition, **Lindow Man: a bog body mystery**, seven different people provide different perspectives on the life and death of a man who was revealed after nearly two thousand years. Some of the objects in the exhibition have an obvious link to Lindow Man, while others may seem unexpected, but all of them are chosen to show the many sides of Lindow Man and what he means today. (Julia McLaughlin Cook)

2 Society for Clay Pipe Research

The SCPR is holding its annual conference in Liverpool on the 20th and 21st September this year. The theme will focus on clay tobacco pipes from the North West and, on Saturday, will include a series of talks and discussions and the opportunity to examine material brought by delegates, On Sunday there will be a half day visit to Norton Priory with talks and the opportunity to look at the excavated pipe material from the site. The fee for the conference is £10 which will cover the cost of tea and coffee on Saturday. Delegates are invited to join members of the SCPR for a meal on Saturday night and lunch will be available on Sunday at Norton Priory. The cost of the meals on Saturday night and Sunday is not included in the fee.

In addition, on Friday 19th, there is also an **International Conference on Pipe Research** taking place in Liverpool. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the series of seminars on world pipes which will be held in the Victoria Gallery and Museum, University of Liverpool, between 2.00 and 5.30pm. There will be no charge for this event.

Any members of the Merseyside Archaeological Society who are interested in attending the Friday seminars or who would like to attend the SCPR conference should contact Jenny Woodcock, 42 North Sudley Road, Aigburth, L17 0BG (email: iolanthe@onetel.com).

3 Archaeology at the BA

The British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA) Festival of Science 2008 will take place in Liverpool 6-11 September. There will be talks, debates, exhibitions, hands on activities and excursions covering all fields of science from archaeology to zoology.

See BA website www.the-ba.net/festivalofscience or contact The BA, Wellcome Wolfson Building, 165 Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5HD, tel: 0870 770 7101, for a free programme booklet



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 3/2008

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It is with very great regret and much sadness that we have to announce the death of Pauline Roberts, a long time member of the Society and our current Membership Secretary. Pauline died very peacefully but totally unexpectedly at home on the 25th of September. She is survived by her husband Dave who has equally been a mainstay of the Society for many years serving loyally and enthusiastically as our Honorary Secretary and the Editor of our Journal and incidental publications.

THURSDAY EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2008-09

- 16th October** **Dr Roger White**, FSA MIFA, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of the Institute of Archaeology & Antiquity, Birmingham, and Academic Director, Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.
'Reconstructing a Viking Community: recent work on the Neston Crosses'
- 20th November** **Dr Richard Benjamin**, Head of the International Slavery Museum, Liverpool
'The International Slavery Museum: an active campaigner'

- 11th December** **Christmas meeting - Diana Goodier**, a member of a Dark Ages re-enactment group The Wirhalh Skip Felag (the Wirral Vikings).
'Viking and Saxon Re-enactment: Experimental archaeology?'
- 15th January** **Dr Mark Adams**, Archaeological Project Officer, National Museums Liverpool.
'Recent archaeological excavations at Manchester Dock'
- 19th February** **Dr Joan Taylor**, recently retired from the post of John Rankin Reader in Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Liverpool.
'Gold reflections'
- 19th March** **Dr George Nash**, part-time lecturer at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol and Associate Archaeologist at SLR Consulting.
'The art, the stone and the structure: Reconstructing the Calderstones passage grave monument'
- April** **The date of the AGM and speaker remains to be announced.**

IMPORTANT NOTE – CHANGE OF VENUE FOR LECTURE MEETINGS

From October, evening lectures will take place at the new **Friends Meeting House** at **22 School Lane**, off Hanover Street, near the Bluecoat Centre. Meetings will be held in The Institute Room on the first floor. All our evening lectures begin at 7.30 pm and finish round about 9.00 pm (we can stay longer as the room is booked till 10.00 pm).

We hope that more members will find this venue accessible as it is close to Central, James Street and Lime Street railway stations and to Queen Square bus station. As car parking arrangements are changing all the time due to the redevelopment of the city centre, we suggest you try the Friends Meeting House website link (www.liverpoolquakers.org.uk) for up-to-date car parking information but the existing multi-storey car parks in the city centre are only a brief walking distance away. As there is a small kitchen attached to the room we would like to invite you all to enjoy tea or coffee and biscuits from 7.00 pm on 16 October.

MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Volume 12 is now ready for distribution. All those who have been members between 2001 and 2008 are entitled to a free copy. Copies of the journal are also available to non-members at a price of £10. The cost of postage and packing is £1.50. Copies will be available for collection at all our Thursday evening lecture meetings up and until the end of the year and at the Christmas meeting. After this date copies will be posted to members. We are, however, appealing to members to collect not only their own copy but also that of anyone known to them and thus save the Society the additional cost postage. Copies of our recent publications, *The Changing Face of Liverpool* and *The Calderstones* will also be available for purchase at every meeting. The cost of the former is £5.00 and

the latter is £2.50 and both these interesting and really beautifully illustrated books would make a really good Christmas present.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

Once again we have booked our Christmas meeting and evening meal at the popular Piazza Café, Mount Pleasant. It will take place on Thursday 11th December at 7.00 pm, Our speaker on this occasion will be Diana Goodier, a member of the Society with a keen interest in historical re-enactment. In the persona of a wise woman and healer she has taken part in living history events at many venues including Croxteth Hall and Prenton Rugby Club. Please complete the booking form if you wish to attend.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Ripples and reflections: Lindow Man and His Stories" To be held in the Kanaris Lecture Theatre, The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Friday 14 November 2008. 6.30-8.00 pm. The Keynote Speaker is Professor Ronald Hutton, The Dept of Historical Studies, The University of Bristol. There is no charge for this lecture.

"Why Lindow Man Matters" To be held in the Kanaris Lecture Theatre, The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Saturday 15 November, 10.00-4.30. Cost - £45 including lunch, £25 student place (limited number) including lunch. For further information, please contact Phyllis Stoddart on 0161 275 2643 or email phyllis.stoddart@manchester.ac.uk for a booking form.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 4/2008-2009

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THURSDAY EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2008-09

19th February Dr Joan Taylor, recently retired from the post of John Rankin Reader in Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Liverpool.
Title: *'Gold reflections'*

19th March Dr George Nash, part-time lecturer at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol and Associate Archaeologist at SLR Consulting.
Title: *'The art, the stone and the structure: Reconstructing the Calderstones passage grave monument'*

*****PLEASE NOTE***** the change of date of our final meeting of the 2008/9 season.

23rd April Annual General Meeting. Dr Joanna Paul, Lecturer in Classical Studies at the University of Liverpool.
Title: *'Cinematic Constructions of the City of Rome'*

REMINDER – Venue for evening lecture meetings

All our evening lectures now take place at the new Friends Meeting House at 22 School Lane, off Hanover Street, near the Bluecoat Centre. Meetings are held in the Institute Room on the first floor. The lectures start at 7.30 pm and finish round about 9.00 pm but we can now arrive a little earlier and stay longer as the room is booked from 7.00-10.00 pm. An additional bonus is that as there is a small kitchen attached to the meeting room we are able to invite you all to enjoy tea or coffee and biscuits before or after each meeting and spend a little time on informal socialising.

We have found that members like this venue which is easily and safely accessible, close to Central, James Street and Lime Street railway stations and to Queen Square bus station. As car parking arrangements are changing all the time due to the redevelopment of the city centre, we suggest you try the Friends Meeting House website link (www.liverpoolquakers.org.uk). for up-to-date car parking information but the existing multi-storey car parks in the city centre are only a brief walking distance away. If you have not ventured out to any of the meetings we held before Christmas, do consider coming along to sample the warmth, light and comfort of the new meeting room.

Merseyside Archaeological Society Publications

Volume 12 has been ready since before Christmas. All those who have been members between 2001 and 2008 are entitled to a free copy and it is hoped that, by now, you will have received yours, either collected by you or a friend. Copies will continue to be available at all our Thursday evening lecture meeting but if you have not yet received your copy or you are unable to come to any meetings, please contact Julia McLoughlin Cook at 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18 1EL. Copies of the journal are also available to non-members at a price of £10. The cost of postage and packing is £1.50.

Copies of our recent publications *The Changing Face of Liverpool* and *The Calderstones* will also be available for purchase at every meeting. The cost of the former is £5.00 and the latter is £2.50 and both these interesting and really beautifully illustrated books make really good gifts.

Report on Christmas meeting

Once again we held our Christmas meeting and evening meal at the popular Piazza Café, Mount Pleasant. Our speaker this year was Diana Goodier aided by another Society member, John Donovan. Diana and John both have a keen interest in historical re-enactment and Diana, in the persona of a wise woman and healer and John as a warrior, have taken part in living history events at many venues including Croxteth Hall and Prenton Rugby Club. They gave us a splendid and informative talk and display of clothing and the 'tools of their trade'. Attendance at the Christmas meeting was a little disappointing and those of you who did not attend missed a lovely festive event.

Continuing Education Courses at the University of Liverpool

Although the closing date for registration for most spring modules has now passed, there is still time to register for some very interesting day-schools on a wide range of topics:

Saturday, 7th February, 10am to 4pm. *Ancient Greek Music*. Lecturer: Stephen Flett.
Closing date for enrolment: 28th January

Saturday, 21st February, 10am to 4pm. *Ancient Egypt: Alternatives to Eternity*. Lecturer: Campbell Price. Closing date for enrolment: 11th February

Saturday, 7th March, 10am to 4pm. *Scandal, sleaze and the use of arsenic in ancient politics*.
Lecturer: Dan Boatright. Closing date for enrolment: 25th February

There is also a new practical module *Introduction to Archaeological Photography*, taught by Mac James, which will take place on 5 consecutive afternoons, 2pm to 4pm, from 3rd March onwards. Closing date for enrolment: 20th February.

There are brief details available in the latest Continuing Education brochure, available on-line via http://www.liv.ac.uk/conted/spring_2009/index.htm. Alternatively, to receive a free printed prospectus, please contact the Centre for Lifelong Learning with your name and address at conted@liverpool.ac.uk, tel 0151-794 6952/6900.

For more details on the content of the photography course and any of the day-schools, please contact Dr. Gina Muskett, SACE Academic Organiser for Continuing Education, G.M.Muskett@liv.ac.uk, Tel: 0151-794 2578 (answering machine available).

Margaret Dix

We are sad to report the death of one of our long established members. Margaret died suddenly but peacefully on the 15th of December. She will be remembered for her determination to be present at and enjoy all the meetings which she felt she could attend and particularly enjoyed the field trips. Margaret had a wide range of interests and appears to have lived her life to the full. Five members of the Society attended her funeral on the 5th of January.

Volunteer assistance required at Norton Priory Museum

As a part of the Museums Association Monument Fellowship scheme, work is currently being undertaken on cataloguing and sorting the ceramic collection (pottery and tile) at Norton Priory Museum. Volunteers are currently being sought to help with cataloguing items (using a Modes database) and assisting with repacking and labelling the material. Christine Longworth, one of our members, is currently employed on the scheme and will be available to supervise and support volunteers working alongside her in the store. As Christine's fellowship finishes in April, anyone who is interested in helping the museum staff at Norton Priory should contact Ruth Darling, the Acting Senior Keeper, Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, Tudor Road, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA17 1SX as soon as possible. Telephone 01928 5699895, extension 204 or email ruthdarling@nortonpriory.org as soon as possible for further information.

The Norton Priory Museum website is www.nortonpriory.org.

Exhibitions and events of possible interest to members.

The British Museum. *Babylon: myth and reality*. Runs to 15th March 2009:
http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/all_current_exhibitions/babylon.aspx

The Royal Academy. *Byzantium, 330 -1453*. Runs to 22nd March 2009:
www.royalacademy.org.uk/byzantium

Manchester Museum. *Lindow Man: a bog body mystery*. Runs to 19th April 2009 at
<http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whatson/exhibitions/lindowman/>

And, of course, the stunning new Ancient Egypt gallery at World Museum Liverpool, including the amazingly preserved textile belt of Ramesses III:
www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/humanworld/ancientworld/egyptian/gallery/

Future field meetings: Details of the field meetings planned for this summer will be included in the next Newsletter.

Time passes rather fast and **Annual Subscriptions** for 2009 are now due: please complete the attached form and return as instructed.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 1/2009

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SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME 2009

Please note that instead of a coach outing in May, there will be a course consisting of two linked days on **Graveyard Recording**. This course is run by the University of Liverpool Centre for Continuing Education. Early booking is recommended as places on the course are limited. **A copy of the University of Liverpool registration form is attached/enclosed.**

Graveyard recording: A short introduction (Course No: CRN 14642: algy 9025).

This course which is organised by the Centre for Continuing Education consists of two linked days, **Saturday 2nd May and Saturday 9th May 2009** 10.00am – 4.00pm and will be led by Dr Mark Adams. It will be based at All Saints Church Hall, Childwall. **The closing date for enrolment is Wednesday 22nd April. Fee:** £49.00 full fee. £37.00 for retirement pensioners aged over 60 and full-time students. £20.00 for those in receipt of Job Seekers' Allowance, Council Tax benefit, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Disabled Persons Tax Credit, Income Benefit, or an unwaged dependant of someone in receipt of any of these. **Members of Merseyside Archaeological Society are entitled to a discount of £0.50.**

“Graveyards and their monuments provide a fascinating insight into the lives and deaths of the inhabitants of local communities. This short course gives a practical introduction to exploring these valuable resources, combining a class-based and practical session at All Saints Church, Childwall. The venue is easily accessible by public transport from Liverpool City Centre”.

Further details of this course and other archaeology courses of possible interest to members of the Society, which are outlined on page 3 can be obtained from Dr. Gina Muskett. (G.M.Muskett@liv.ac.uk) (Tel: 0151 794 2578).

Merseyside Archaeological Society Field visits

Our first outing will be to Cumbria on **20th June**. Jamie Quartermaine of Oxford Archaeology North, who spoke at the Society's conference last October on excavations at Liverpool Old Dock, will guide us round Lowther Park, where he has been carrying out an archaeological survey. The visit will include parts of the park which are not normally open to the public so this is an opportunity not to be missed.

On **July 11th** we will visit a number of prehistoric tombs on Anglesey with Ron Cowell of National Museums Liverpool. This will be a chance to put the Calderstones (the subject of research by the Society and our most recent Thursday night speaker, George Nash) into their regional context. It promises to be a full and rewarding day.

There will be a visit by public or private transport to St Helens on Saturday **1st August**. The morning will be devoted to the Blackbrook Community Archaeology Project including Stanley Mill, the subject of a paper by Mark Adams at the conference last October. In the afternoon we will visit the St Helens museum, 'World of Glass', which incorporates some nineteenth-century glass-making remains.

It is hoped to organise an outing to look at pre-Norman sculpture in Wirral later in August. For further details, please complete the form at the end of the Newsletter.

EVENTS OF REGIONAL INTEREST TO MEMBERS – SUMMER 2009

Festival of Archaeology This year National Archaeology Week has been renamed the Festival of Archaeology and it will last a fortnight, from 17th July to 2nd August. The Society's contribution will be an exhibition in Calderstones Park about the Calderstones over the weekend 24th-26th July. There will also be archaeological activities at Speke Hall from Friday 17th-Monday 20th July, organised by the National Trust. Come along as a volunteer or visitor. If you like to be involved in either of these activities or to receive details of the proposed trip to Wirral in August, please complete the form at the end of the Newsletter.

Council for British Archaeology, North West Regional Group

The Spring Reports meeting and Annual General Meeting entitled "*Lancashire Hotpot: A Rich Mixture of Heritage*" will take place on Saturday 16th May 2009 at Brindley Community Hall, Water Street, Brindley, Chorley PR6 8HN. Non members will be very welcome but may not take part in the AGM. If you are interested please contact Mrs Dorothy Waring, 55 Holden Fold, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 3AU no later than Friday 1st May.

Continuing Education courses of possible interest to members – Summer 2009.

BEYOND THE PHARAOHS – DAILY LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Friday 15 May 10am-4pm by Dan Boatright, Cordula Werschkun and Claire Malleson at 126 Mount Pleasant. Learn about the daily life of the Ancient Egyptians, including childhood, growing old, agriculture, diet, arts and crafts. As well as class-based talks, this day school will involve a practical session at the Garstang Museum of Archaeology in Abercromby Square where students will be encouraged to handle and study objects from the collection.

CRN 14659 algy 9011. Enrolment closing date Tuesday 5th May. £26/£20.

EXPLORING GIZA: THE LIFE OF AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TOWN

Saturday 30 May 10am-4pm by Claire Malleson and Cordula Werschkun at 126 Mount Pleasant. The town at Giza existed because of one of the world's largest building projects: the Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure, and this course explores both the town and lives of its inhabitants. Both lecturers are members of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project, and between them have ten seasons experience at Giza.

CRN 14661 algy 9011. Enrolment closing date Wednesday 20 May. £26/£20.

WHAT'S IN A WAR MEMORIAL? COMMEMORATING CONFLICT IN LIVERPOOL

Saturday 6 June 10am-4pm by Jonathan Trigg at 126 Mount Pleasant. Nearly every city in Britain has at least one war memorial. Using the memorials that can be found in Liverpool as case studies, this course will look at the issues behind the erecting of these evocative monuments.

CRN 14658 algy 9011. Enrolment closing date Thursday 28 May. £26/£20.

THE SOCIETY'S THURSDAY EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME. Autumn/Winter 2009

Our evening lecture series will, once again be held in the Friends Meeting House in School Lane. The programme is currently being organised but it may be useful to note the proposed dates in your diary. Thursdays, **15th October, 19th November, 21st January, 18th February and 18th March**. The Christmas meeting is likely to be held on either the 3rd or the 10th of December and the date of the Annual General Meeting has also yet to be decided.

Meetings are held in the Institute Room on the first floor and will start at 7.30 pm and finish round about 9.00pm but we can now arrive a little earlier and stay longer as the room is booked from 7.00-10.00 pm. An additional bonus is that as there is a small kitchen attached to the meeting room we are able to invite you all to enjoy tea or coffee and biscuits before or after each meeting and spend a little time on informal socialising.

This venue is easily and safely accessible, close to Central, James Street and Lime Street railway stations and to Queen Square bus station.

PUBLICATIONS

Society Journal, Volume 12. The latest Merseyside Archaeological Journal, Volume 12 has been ready since before Christmas. Appeals have been made to those who have been members between 2001 and 2008 and who are, therefore, entitled to a free copy, to collect a copy at the lecture meetings or to ask a friend to do so for them. If you have still not collected/received your copy, please contact Julia McLoughlin Cook at 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18 1EL (Tel: 0151 733 1017). Additional copies are available to members, or to non-members, at a price of £10, plus £1.50 for postage and packing.

Other Society publications. Copies of our recent publications, *The Changing Face of Liverpool* and *The Calderstones* are also available for purchase at every meeting. The cost of the former is £5.00 and the latter is £2.50 and both these interesting and really beautifully illustrated books make really good gifts. Further information, please contact Julia at the above address.

OVERDUE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2009

A subscription renewal form was included with the last Newsletter. If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, please could you do so as soon as possible and send the cheque to Dr Eveline van der Steen, at Flat 3, 12 South Drive, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 8JL.

Individual membership - £12; Junior - £2; Family - £15; Concessions £7 and Institutional membership - £20. Cheques should be payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society.

COMPUTER ENTHUSIAST NEEDED

As you will be aware we do already have a limited Society website (<http://www.merseysidearchaeologicalsociety.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>) and members are, indeed, recommended to check this website periodically for updates and additions BUT we do urgently need assistance with the maintenance and design. Is there anyone amongst our members who would consider taking the task of webmaster for u? If you are interested, please could you contact Dave Roberts at drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk He would very much appreciate some help!



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 2/2009

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THURSDAY EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2009-10

As you will see, we have not yet finalised all the details of the evening lectures but please do note the proposed dates in your diary. Further information will be included in the next Newsletter.

VENUE: I am sure that no-one now needs reminding that our evening meetings now take place in the new Friends' Meeting House at 22 School Lane, off Hanover Street. The lectures start at 7.30pm and finish at around 9.00pm but as the accommodation is booked from 7.00pm we can now arrive a little earlier. There is a small kitchen attached to the meeting room and we have started to serve tea, coffee and biscuits before the talk. We hope that members will take advantage of this extra time and come early for a drink and to meet friends for a chat before the meeting.

15th October Alan Brown and Phil Cox of the Caer Alyn Community Project.

Title: *Excavations at Caer Alyn*

The Caer Alyn Archaeological and Heritage Project is based in North East Wales. It started with just one test pit, as part of the Time Team Big Dig but has gone from strength to strength, including its own Caer Alyn Youth Archaeology group. For more information, see their website, <http://www.caeralyn.org/community-archaeology>

Phil Cox has been the Caer Alyn Project Coordinator since 2003. While attending a field archaeology course at the West Cheshire College, he met some people involved in the Baile an Or Project and joined them in their archaeological exploration of the site of Scotland's 1869 Gold Rush at Kildonan in Sutherland.

Alan Brown is the Scientific Advisor for Geophysics and Environmental. His involvement with the Caer Alyn project began when he was asked to survey the site of a possible Iron Age hill fort

with what appeared to be a Bronze Age tumulus close by in 2004. Elsewhere, he has carried out several geophysical surveys at Poulton in Cheshire.

19th November Dr Vanessa Oakden, PAS Field Liaison Officer for Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Title: *Recent portable antiquities finds in the North West*

In addition to her work as the PAS Field Liaison Officer for this area, Vanessa Oakden researched the Vikings for an M.Phil. in Medieval History from Trinity College Dublin and is particularly interested in finds of that period. Before relocating to Britain she worked on various pre-historic and medieval sites and an Iron Age wetland site in Ireland.

Christmas meeting - At present both the venue and speaker remain to be confirmed but the dates for your diary are either the 3rd or the 10th **December**.

21st January Campbell Price, Research student, School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at Liverpool University

Title: *Scotland in Egypt: The Geophysical survey at Saqqara*

Campbell Price is researching a thesis in the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at Liverpool University on *Archaisms, formula and identity: the materiality of non-royal self presentation in Late Period Egypt*.

16th February Ron Cowell, the Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology, Museum of Liverpool.

Title: *M62 Excavations*

Ron Cowell is a specialist in the prehistoric archaeology, landscape archaeology and wetlands of North West England. In 2007 he directed archaeological excavations undertaken on behalf of the Highways Agency in advance of the construction of the new link road at the junction of the M62 and M57 near Tarbock, Huyton and Whiston, Merseyside.

18th March still to be announced

22nd April Annual General Meeting. Speaker still to be announced.

SATURDAY FIELD VISIT

Saturday 26th September Viking Age Sculpture in Wirral

Departure from Mann Island, 9.15 am. Please note the change of date.

Optional pick-up at Bromborough

Programme: We will visit Bromborough churchyard to see the cross remains, followed by a guided tour of the museum at St Bridget's in West Kirby. In the afternoon Roger White will guide us round the Viking stones at St Helen's in Neston.

Cost: **£12 per person**

If you would like to come along, please complete the form at the end of this Newsletter. Numbers are limited as we have, on this occasion, booked a smaller

coach. If you would like to come, it is suggested that you book your place as soon as possible.

FUTURE PLANS

Prehistoric Orkney

On the Society's recent trip to Anglesey to visit prehistoric tombs the talk turned to Orkney, which boasts some of the best-preserved archaeological sites in Europe.

Orkney's 5,500 year-old Neolithic Heartland was granted World Heritage status by UNESCO in 1999. This includes the magnificent Ring of Brodgar - originally 60 stones in a vast circle between the Stenness and Harray Lochs, 27 of which remain standing. Close by are the Standing Stones of Stenness, Barnhouse Village and the tomb of Maeshowe, Orkney's largest chambered cairn, which is considered to be one of the finest architectural achievements of prehistoric Europe. The Vikings visited Maeshowe during the 12th century and left one of the largest collections of Norse runic inscriptions known.

There is also Skara Brae, an incredibly well preserved stone village containing an intricate maze of dwellings, with stone beds, lintels and cupboards are all intact, and dates back some 5,000 years. The site was revealed in 1850 by a violent storm and is now one of the most famous Neolithic sites in Northern Europe.

Why doesn't the Society run a trip to Orkney? one member has suggested. Would you like to visit Orkney with the Society?

The islands are several hundred miles further afield than we have considered visiting in the past and to do the sites justice would take longer than a weekend. Costs would be higher than for a normal weekend trip because of the additional travelling and the extra days away so we would like to know that there is definite interest before going ahead. .

If you are interested, please let me have your name and address. This will not commit you to anything but it will give us an indication of whether it is worth going ahead.

www.mclaughlinjulia@yahoo.co.uk or tel. 0151 733 1017.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Saturday 5th September 2009 – Chester, Grosvenor Museum

One-day conference. Entitled *Locality and Community@ Cheshire Sculpture in Context.*

The AHRC-funded Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture in partnership with the Victoria County History, the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Chester and the Chester Archaeological Society invite you to attend and participate in a day-long workshop to introduce the forthcoming publication of the Cheshire and Lancashire Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture authored by Professor Richard Bailey. The day brings together a range of key specialists in interdisciplinary fields of study examining aspects of life, landscape and community in the North West region and Wales.

Speakers include Dr David Wilson (British Academy), Dr Alan Thacker (Victoria County History), Professor Richard Bailey (Newcastle University), Dr David Griffiths (Oxford University), Professor Nancy Edwards (Bangor University) and Professor Judy Jesch (Nottingham University). Please join us on Saturday the 5th September 2009 at the Grosvenor Museum in Chester.

The day will commence at 10.00am and finish at 4.00pm with a drinks reception later in the evening hosted by the University of Chester. A charge of £20 a day and £10 for participants which included entry, refreshments, lunch and an optional tour of St John's Church and the evening reception. To register to attend please email or contact Dr Sarah Semple at the Department of Archaeology, Durham University, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE. Tel. 0191 334 1115. Email s.j.semple@durham.ac.uk (*Note the double .. between s and j in the email address is as received*). Bursaries are available for postgraduate students covering entry, travel and accommodation costs and applicants should send a CV to the above address or email. All cheques should be made payable to 'Durham University' and sent to Sarah Semple at the address given above. Students should send a photocopy of their Student ID cards to guarantee a reduced fee. We look forward to welcoming you to the event.

****Please note that most of the information about the Chester conference on the back of this page, will be lost when you cut out the booking form below. If you are interested in attending that event don't forget to make a note of the relevant details before returning your booking form for the Wirral trip.***



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 3/2009

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Merseyside Industrial History Society	page 3
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Contributions to future Newsletters: Once again an appeal, I would very much welcome contributions for the Newsletter from the membership – please send in any reports, accounts, or other information, perhaps about the meetings of other local societies, which you think might be of interest to other members. If you feel able to contribute to future Newsletters, please either email me, the current editor, on iolanth93@o2.co.uk or if you do not have email, telephone me on 0151 727 8243. There are no deadlines, information can arrive with the editor at any time and will be amended according to the date of publication of the next Newsletter.

Thank you, *Jenny Woodcock*.

Lecture meetings

I am sure you are now aware that we are holding our regular evening lecture meetings in the new Friends' Meeting House at 22 School Lane, off Hanover Street. The lectures start at 7.30pm and finish at around 9.00pm but as the accommodation is booked from 7.00pm we can now arrive a little earlier. There is a small kitchen attached to the meeting room and we have started to serve tea, coffee and biscuits before the talk. We hope that members will take advantage of this extra time and come early for a drink and to meet friends for a chat before the meeting. Our next meeting is on

21st January 2010

Speaker: Campbell Price, Research student, School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at Liverpool University on “*Scotland in Egypt: The Geophysical survey at Saqqara*”.

18th February 2010

Speaker: Ron Cowell, the Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology, Museum of Liverpool, on “*M62 Excavations*”.

18th March Rescheduled from 15 October

Phil Cox, Caer Alyn Community Project, on "*Excavations at Caer Alyn*".

22nd April Annual General Meeting with a speaker to be announced.

FUTURE PLANS

In the last Newsletter we put forward a tentative suggestion, which was initiated by members on our Anglesey field trip, that the Society might arrange a future Merseyside Archaeological Society field visit to Orkney. Since then we have had several favorable responses from members but bearing in mind that the organization of this sort of trip will take time it has been suggested that any visit should be arranged for 2011 rather than for next year. This revised date gives everyone longer to plan ahead and we hope that it will encourage other members to consider and perhaps also express an interest in coming. Orkney is rather further away than we have considered visiting in the past and it would be necessary to make the visit longer than the usual weekend

The Orkney Isles are incredibly beautiful and the archaeology is varied and in many instances wonderfully preserved. The 5,500 year-old Neolithic Heartland was granted World Heritage status by UNESCO in 1999. This area includes the magnificent Ring of Brodgar - originally 60 stones in a vast circle between the Stenness and Harray Lochs, 27 of which remain standing. Close by are the Standing Stones of Stenness, Barnhouse Village and the tomb of Maeshowe, Orkney's largest chambered cairn, which is considered to be one of the finest architectural achievements of prehistoric Europe. There are many other Neolithic burial monuments and an incredibly well preserved stone-built village at Skara Brae consisting of an intricate maze of dwellings, with stone beds, lintels and cupboards all intact and dating back some 5,000 years.

If you think you might be interested, please let Julia McLaughlin Cook have your name and address: mclaughlinjulia@yahoo.co.uk or tel. 0151 733 1017.

MAS Website: Our new website is currently under construction. If members have any suggestions they would like to see included, please don't hesitate to let us know. Contact Dave Roberts on drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

Merseyside Industrial History Society: As many of you are aware the Society has had a happy and friendly association with the MIHS for many years. Members of the Merseyside Archaeological Society are welcome to attend their meetings, which, like our own regular evening meetings are held in the Friends' Meeting House, on Mondays, starting at 7.00pm. Malcolm Verity, who can be contacted on mv@malcolmverity.co is the Secretary of MIHS and writes that he hopes the meetings will be of interest to our members. **Note: It is possible that there will be a nominal charge for non-members, just as we ourselves make for visitors to our own meetings, but this has not been established.**

9 November 2009 - Edgar Richards - tales from a veteran of the Mersey Docks

14 December 2009 - AGM, with refreshments and quiz

11 January 2010 - Roger Woodward - Stevenson's railway bridges in Wales

8 February 2010 - Members' Evening (members present their own projects/researches)

8 March 2010 - Nigel Bowker - inland waterway experiences with a 1937 barge

12 April 2010 - To be filled later

7 to 10 May 2010 - Long Weekend Field Trip - location TBA (in 2009, Bristol/Bath)

June and July 2010 - At least two one-day field trips

For those who are interested in maintaining contact with other local societies, The **Wigan Archaeological Society** has an excellent website: <http://www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk/>

As you will see, all their newsletters are archived, together with a wealth of information on their activities.



Merseyside Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 4/2009-2010

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Lecture meetings: I am sure you are now aware that we are holding our regular evening lecture meetings in the new Friends' Meeting House at 22 School Lane, off Hanover Street. The lectures start at 7.30pm and finish at around 9.00pm but as the accommodation is booked from 7.00pm we can now arrive a little earlier. There is a small kitchen attached to the meeting room and we have started to serve tea, coffee and biscuits before the talk. We hope that members will take advantage of this extra time and come early for a drink and to meet friends for a chat before the meeting. Our next meeting is on ...

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18th March Rescheduled from 15 October

Speaker: Phil Cox, Caer Alyn Community Project, on "*Excavations at Caer Alyn*".

22nd April our Annual General Meeting.

Speaker: Jamie Quartermaine on "*Recent findings in the Buttermere and Loweswater area*".

Contributions to future Newsletters: Once again an appeal, I would very much welcome contributions for the Newsletter from the membership – please send in any reports, accounts, or other information, perhaps about the meetings of other local societies, which you think might be of interest to other members. If you feel able to contribute to future Newsletters, please either email me, the current editor, Jenny Woodcock on iolanthe93@o2.co.uk or if you do not have email, telephone on 0151 727 8243. There are no deadlines, information can arrive with the editor at any time and will be amended according to the date of publication of the next Newsletter.

Field Trips for 2010 and 2011

MAS visit to Orkney

In the last Newsletter we put forward a suggestion that the Society might arrange a future Merseyside Archaeological Society visit to Orkney.

Julia McLaughlin Cook now writes: Thank you to all the people who made helpful suggestions about sites to see in Orkney and information about people to contact. I have kept a list of all those who have contacted me and expressed an interest in visiting Orkney. Owing to the complexity of arranging a longer visit we have decided to run this trip in 2011 rather than this year. Future Newsletters will contain all the details.

If you are interested in the Orkney visit, please let Julia have your name and address. Email mclaughlinjulia@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 0151 733 1017.

Roman villas of the Cotswolds weekend visit, 9th-11th April 2010

In the meantime, we are planning a weekend visit this spring to see Roman and other sites in Gloucestershire. We will base ourselves just outside Cheltenham at Glenfall House retreat and conference centre, Charlton Kings, which is set in its own wooded grounds. Cheltenham is about 145 miles from Liverpool and, according to the AA, two and half hour's drive away. There is a fast rail link via Birmingham.

On Saturday we will visit three Roman villas in the Cheltenham/Gloucester area and Corinium Museum, Cirencester, in the company of experienced archaeologist and lecturer, Philip Bethell. All the visits will be by minibus.

Chedworth Roman villa (National Trust) was discovered by accident in 1864 and the remains of most of the extant buildings were uncovered in the 19th century. It has two bath-houses, hypocausts, a latrine and a water shrine. Over a mile of wall remains, there are several mosaics and a site museum.

Great Witcombe Villa (English Heritage) formed the centrepiece of a great country estate, built in the 3rd century and abandoned in the 5th century. There are buildings housing mosaics but we do not know yet if they will be open on the day that we plan to visit.

Spoonley Wood started as a Romano-British building of the "Aisled Barn or Corridor" type with the long axis aligned NE-SW. It is the classic example of a villa that developed from corridor-, to winged- to courtyard-type. It was excavated in the late 1880's.

The programme for Sunday will include Belas Knap prehistoric Long Barrow, the Saxon church of St Mary's at Deerhurst and Tewkesbury Abbey. These visits will be in members' own transport.

The cost for the weekend, including the service of a guide and transport on Saturday, will be around £60 per person (price to be confirmed). Entry fees to Chedworth and Great Witcombe are not included in the cost; bring your National Trust and English Heritage membership cards.

Single, twin and double en-suite rooms are available at Glenfall House. The cost for two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at will be £100. Bookings should be made through Julia. If you are interested in coming, please complete the booking form on the last page of the newsletter and return it to Julia by 15 March 2010.

Further dates for your diary.

We have had provisional notice that **Norton Priory Museum** is planning some archaeology and history family events this year. These are will take place on the following dates and more information will be provided at a later date.

Monday 3rd May (Bank Holiday) – **“Where did you get that hat”?**

Between 1st June and 31st August - **Walled Garden Mosaic Trail**

9th and 10th August - **(Event) Mosaic Mania**

Between 15th July and 11th October - **Art and Archaeology**

26th and 27th July - **Festival of British Archaeology - Drawing the past**

Monday 30th August (Bank Holiday) – **(Event) Sensory Splendour**

Meetings of the Merseyside Industrial History Society

As detailed in the last Newsletter, the Merseyside Industrial History Society has had a happy and friendly association with the MIHS for many years. Members of the Merseyside Archaeological Society are welcome to attend their meetings, which, like our own regular evening meetings are held in the Friends' Meeting House, on Mondays, starting at 7.00pm. Malcolm Verity, who can be contacted on mv@malcolmverity.co.uk is the Secretary of MIHS and writes that he hopes the meetings will be of interest to our members. **Note: It is possible that there will be a nominal charge for non-members, just as we ourselves make for visitors to our own meetings, but this has not been established.**

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June and July 2010 - At least two one-day field trips

MAS Website: Our new website is currently under construction. If members have any suggestions they would like to see included, please don't hesitate to let us know. Contact Dave Roberts on drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

Annual Student prize: This year the MAS first year archaeology student prize was awarded to Kevin Stoba for his achievement in the first-year "Methods in Archaeology" course. He and a companion attended the Christmas meeting in December at which time he was presented with his cheque and given free membership of the Society for the next two years. We look forward to seeing him at some of our future meetings.

Graveyard survey: In April 2009, the Department of Continuing Education at Liverpool University, in conjunction with Merseyside Archaeological Society, ran a course on the techniques involved in surveying graveyards. The course was based at All Saints Church, Childwall and was attended by about a dozen people. The course and the venue proved so interesting that the Society started a project last summer to record the whole of the churchyard. This task involved plotting every grave onto a plan, photographing every monument and recording the detail of each gravestone or memorial. To date about 10% of the churchyard has been recorded and the details of about 200 18th and 19th-century graves and their occupants entered onto a database which is retained at The Field Archaeology Unit at Liverpool Museum. The project will continue in the spring and if anybody is interested in helping with recording please contact Dave Roberts e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk or Tel: 0151 427 2980. No prior experience is required.

Finally, last but not least it is time to renew your annual subscriptions.

Annual Subscriptions for 2010 are now due, time passes so fast. Please could you complete the form on the last page and return to Eveline, our membership secretary, as instructed.

**MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:
2010 Subscription Form**

To: Dr Eveline van der Steen,
Flat 3, 12 South Drive, Wavertree, L15 8JL

I enclose my subscription for 2010 (cheques payable to Merseyside Archaeological Society)

Name:

Address:.....

Telephone:E-mail:

I agree to receive my newsletter via e-mail YES/NO

Please indicate which type of subscription you are eligible for:

Individual membership: £12.00	Junior: £2.00	Family: £15.00
Concessions: £7.00	Institutional: £20.00	

**ROMAN VILLAS OF THE COTSWOLDS WEEKEND VISIT, 9TH-11TH APRIL
2010
BOOKING FORM**

**Please fill in this slip and send it with a £5 non-returnable deposit for each person by 15 March 2010 to:
MAS COTSWOLDS VISIT, 3 Calton Avenue, Liverpool, L18 1EL.**

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....Email.....

Number of people booking.....Deposit enclosed.....

Coming by carComing by public transport.....Would like a lift.....
