



# Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 1/2020

Registered Charity No 510831

## MAS Membership Subscriptions 2020

Subscriptions for 2020 fell due on 1st January. A renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter

## A note from the Chair

For those who visited Hilbre on a sunny day in August it was disappointing to miss visiting the main island. A fire involving plastic in a sea cave had resulted in the police and fire brigade stopping access to the island. MAS has since learnt that contractors working to make the cliff safe were allegedly at fault and as well as damage to the natural environment, the archaeology of the site may have been compromised. The owners, Wirral Borough Council, has admitted they were at fault and are taking steps to deal with the matter. MAS has written to the Council, expressing concerns about the lack of due diligence in carrying out this work and has urged the Council to ensure proper consultation is carried out before further work is attempted. Roy Forshaw has provided an update in an article on page 3 of this Newsletter.

During recent years, local authorities have been stretched financially and have not been staffed to fully monitor planning applications and other permitted developments. Merseyside councils can however consult the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service and Merseyside Historic Environment Record - advisory bodies that are funded by the local councils. MAS members can help by keeping a watchful eye on applications and potential developments and informing the society or other heritage groups of any risk to an archeological site or failure to acknowledge the potential to discover archeology on a site.

On April 23rd, we will be holding the AGM when we will be electing members of the Council with responsibility for running the society. If you would like to be involved in this please let me or any other Council member know. If you would like to attend a Council meeting to observe how it works speak to me or a Council member at an ordinary meeting. I should add that I will have completed my stint as Chair in April and I would like to thank all the members of Council for their contribution and attendance at meetings - its been a pleasure to chair those meetings in Liverpool Library and on most occasions to finish before the Library's 'Big Brother or Sister' announces on the tannoy that "The Library will close in twenty minutes".

*Maurice Handley*

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

Graveyard Recording at All Saints Childwall continues in 2020. We are looking for additional volunteers to finish this work and welcome any MAS members who might be interested. No prior experience is required. For further details of what we are doing and how to become involved please contact Dave Roberts (e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk. Tel: 427 2980).

## Merseyside Archaeological Society

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

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

## Contents

MAS Subscription Renewal.....	1
A note from the Chair .....	1
Graveyard Recording at Childwall.....	1
Lectures - 2019.....	2
Autumn 2019 Talks..... Review.....	2
NML membership Offer.....	2
Free On-Line Courses.....	3
Wigan Archaeological Society Meeting.....	3
Chester Wall Collapse.....	3
Hilbre Island Update.....	3
The Calderstones.....	4
'New ' Old Maps of Liverpool.....	4
Bromborough Medieval Vessel.....	5
Christmas Quiz 2019.....	6

## MAS Lectures at The Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool

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

Thurs 23rd Jan 2020 **Zosia Archibald** '*Tectonic plates – geological, cultural, and historical: recent archaeology in the northern Aegean and the Theraic Gulf*'.

Thurs 20th Feb 2020 - **Dan Garner** '*Recent Fieldwork on Merseyside*'. This talk will discuss some recent excavations in and around Liverpool including Tithebarn Street where a large dump of pottery manufacturing waste from a documented 18th century pottery (producing delftware) was found. At Melling an interesting assemblage of early Post-Medieval pottery has also been found.

Thurs 19th March 2020 **Heather Beeton** '*The Portable Antiquities Scheme and Merseyside: Artefacts from Merseyside identified and recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme*'. This talk will discuss finds from the North-West recently reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme

Thurs 23rd April 2020 AGM and **M. Adams** '*Atlas Street Copper Works St. Helens and Hervey, Peek and Hervey's Ordsall Chemical Works: Recent Excavation*'. This talk will provide 'edited highlights' of recent excavation on two industrial sites in St. Helens and Salford. The Atlas Works, St. Helens, was established in the mid-19th century as part of a resurgence of the copper smelting industry in the town. Hervey, Peek & Hervey's Ordsall Chemical Works produced a range of products, mainly related to the dye industry.

## 2019 Autumn Talks - A Review

*'Violence, Ideology and Classical Archaeology in the Early Decades of French Colonization in Algeria'* - Bonnie Effros (19/9/19). This correspondent did not attend the meeting but there is a comprehensive abstract by the speaker in the previous newsletter.

*'Pottery Finds at Chapel Wharf, Salford'* - Samantha Rowe (17/10/19). Sam was due to talk about archaeological investigation at the Shakespeare North Playhouse Site in Prescott but in a last minute change she spoke instead about pottery finds at Chapel Wharf in Salford. Finds were of material dumped in ditches that formed the boundaries of small fields and burgages - narrow plots of land rented from the town's burgess. Over 2500 sherds were recovered, ranging from 13th to 20th centuries, the finds were mainly mis-shaped or broken pottery. Finds of typical local medieval pottery included Northern Gritty Ware and oxidised Sandy Ware. Early post-medieval pottery included Midland Purple, Dark Glazed Fineware and Yellow Ware similar to that found at Rainford and Norton Priory. Some of the pottery was probably from Staffordshire or was made by a Staffordshire potter who had settled in the Manchester area. The absence of kiln accessories implied that pottery was not manufactured at the site. Sam suggested that it could have been imported from Merseyside or the Midlands. In a brief reference to Prescott finds, Sam showed a picture of a plate with highly decorated slip ware. Sam will be returning to talk about the Prescott finds at this year's October Conference.

*'The Roman Archaeology of Quay Meadow, Lancaster'* - Andy Reilly (21/11/19). In November, Andy Reilly, the chairman of Lancaster and District Heritage Group gave a well illustrated and informative talk about the Group's foray into community archaeology. They started with an excavation in Quay Meadow, with lies in the flood plain of the River Lune just below Lancaster Castle. With around 25-30 members, their group managed to secure Royal support with a grant from the Duchy of Lancaster. Helped by former Time Team archaeologist, Raksha Dave of Dig Ventures, they succeeded in uncovering evidence of Roman activity just below the surface - the nearby Castle lies within a known Roman fort. They uncovered the remains of buildings and a road as well as about 1500 finds. In the 18th century a quay was constructed on the edge of the river and it is likely that this was on the site of a port in Roman times. The group made an application for a second dig at the site but were frustrated by the Council. So, they moved to the garden of a nearby house and low and behold found part of the ramparts of the Roman fort. The group has engaged with the community by inviting schools to the digs. For most of the group it was their first experience of archaeology - 'Thank God for Knee Pads' said Andy - and they have much to celebrate at their regular meetings in The George and Dragon on the Quay.

*Maurice Handley*

## Members of MAS can now receive a 10% discount on the price of becoming a National Museums Liverpool member!

All you have to do is phone the membership team on 0151 478 4157 and quote the code 'MAS10'. You can find out more about the benefits of membership here: <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/development/membership/>

## Free On-line courses

University of Reading is running free on-line courses for anyone with a general interest in Archaeology or who wishes to go on and study the subject at degree level. For further information go to: [https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/archaeology?utm\\_campaign=fl\\_january\\_2020&utm\\_medium=futurelearn\\_organic\\_email&utm\\_source=newsletter\\_broadcast&utm\\_term=030120\\_NL\\_BOW\\_00\\_30&utm\\_content=course01\\_location](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/archaeology?utm_campaign=fl_january_2020&utm_medium=futurelearn_organic_email&utm_source=newsletter_broadcast&utm_term=030120_NL_BOW_00_30&utm_content=course01_location)

## Wigan Archaeological Society Special Meeting

Wigan Archaeological Society will be having a special meeting in March having invited Dr Andrew Birley to come and give them a talk on the Excavation of the Roman Fort at Vindolanda. Andrew, who is current director of the excavations, will be telling us all about the latest developments and fascinating discoveries made during the last few seasons. The venue is the Mercure Oak Hotel in Wigan on 4th March (starting at 7.00pm). Tickets are £5 - available on Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talk-on-the-excavations-of-the-roman-fort-at-vindolanda-tickets-85573640061> or contact Bill Aldridge on 01257 402342 (bill@wiganarchsoc.co.uk ).

## Chester City Wall Collapse

A section of Chester's historic defensive wall has collapsed after earth was removed from its base by developers planning to build luxury apartments. A spokesperson for Chester Council said that the removal of too much earth exposed a section of the wall's foundation. The city was founded in northwest England as a Roman fort in the first century A.D. The full circuit of the nearly 2,000-year-old wall is thought to be the oldest and most complete in Britain.

## Hilbre Island Update



*Hilbre from Middle Eye on our field trip last summer*

Those who attended the intended walk over to Hilbre Island last summer will recall that things did not quite go to plan. Whilst travelling over on the train to lead the walk I received a phone call from Wirral Borough Council to say that the island was closed due to a fire in a cave. The cave repairs had caused a number of archaeological and ecological concerns as the extruded polystyrene used as a support had been inundated by the tide resulting in small pieces of polystyrene spread all over the coastline. The method of work also appeared to disregard the archaeology on the island with vehicles and materials left over features and earthworks. The fire happened because I believe the curing process in the confined cave caused the inflammable material to ignite covering the island in smoke and toxic gases. Hence our walk terminated on the cliffs of Middle Eye. At least it was a sunny day and we could look over and admire the island whilst having lunch in pleasant surroundings.

So what has happened since? Wirral Borough Council was heavily criticised for lack of consultation with the island stake holders, Historic England and the County Archaeologist. A meeting on the island then took place between ecologists and engineers but unfortunately the archaeology was not represented. Further concerns expressed over lack of consultation has now resulted in Wirral Borough Council discussing options with Vicky Nash who is County Archaeologist, Christine Longworth and myself. The authority was looking at three options to resolve the problems they were having with the cave. Due to erosion in and around the cave a large part of the cliff was starting to become unsafe and cracks were appearing. The options were as quoted from their report:

- a. A least cost option of allowing the cliff to deteriorate naturally but managing the risk through the provision of appropriate warning signs and potentially physical barriers to keep the public away from the danger area, as much as possible;
- b. Repairing the defence line. The breach in the defences has caused scour behind and underneath the rock cliff, so any option would need to fill that cavern in before providing reinstating protection to the outer face; or
- c. Provision of a rock armour buttress directly in front of the cliff to prevent further undercutting.

Following advice from RSK Environmental the Authority has decided to go for option A and allow the substantial area of rock face to collapse naturally. In early February, the beach area around the cave and the land above will be fenced off preventing access close

to it. It is hoped that the final position of the fence will take into account known and potential archaeology. I have identified buried masonry walls in the area and there could also be prehistoric remains as the fence is close to a shell midden. The method of erecting the low fence is also important as the intended blind driven posts could damage buried features. The shallow topsoil overlying the natural rock in many places may also be insufficient to retain a fence. A decision needs to be made as to whether the area of grassland over the cave needs to be investigated for potential archaeology before it is allowed to fall into the River Dee.

Building consultants have also been appointed to appraise the condition of the buildings on the island. There has been minimal maintenance over the years and the buildings are falling into disrepair to a stage where they are at risk due to water damage and decay. It is hoped that the required repairs will be done and the buildings such as the Telegraph Keepers House, Buoy Masters House and Buoy Store workshop are brought back into use. The buoy store has already been tidied up in readiness for opening as a small museum.

I am sure the society will repeat the Hilbre visit with greater success next time.

*Roy Forshaw*

### **The Calderstones, Calderstones Park, Liverpool.**



The Calderstones comprise a collection of internationally significant prehistoric rock-art and represent the earliest evidence of settled life in the region. Originally part of a passage-grave, the 6 highly decorated stones were moved to a glasshouse in 1964, an unsuitable environment which accelerated their deterioration. Thanks to funding secured by The Reader from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Liverpool City Council, the ancient monoliths have undergone essential conservation work, laser scanning and re-location.

Last Autumn the stones returned to a new, specially designed home within the gardens of the Grade II listed Mansion House in the centre of Calderstones Park. The Mansion House has re-opened as The Reader's International Centre for Shared Reading. The changes that have been made in the way the Calderstones are presented are significant. Instead of the former mis-leading stone circle arrangement the stones are now displayed in 2 rows of 3, with a path between the rows to represent the interior of a passage-grave.

The monoliths are now more accessible. Rather than being locked away in a glasshouse for much of the time the stones are on open display so visitors can view their decoration at close quarters. There is an informative museum display in an adjacent room within the Mansion House, which explains the pre-historic background to the area and describes the historic journey that the stones have made to their present location.

The Mansion House itself has also undergone extensive renovation. Closed since the early 1970s, the building was in a poor state of repair when The Reader took on the restoration project a few years ago. The house has now become a 'unique public space' hosting Shared Reading groups and other activities. Visitors can walk through 'The Calderstones Story' to discover the history of the house from its beginnings as the residence of a successful businessman and its connections to a world-famous shipping line. A time-line documents historical events that shaped the history of the house. Key dates in the house's past are illustrated by literary events that occurred in the same year thus connecting the Mansion House with its new occupants.

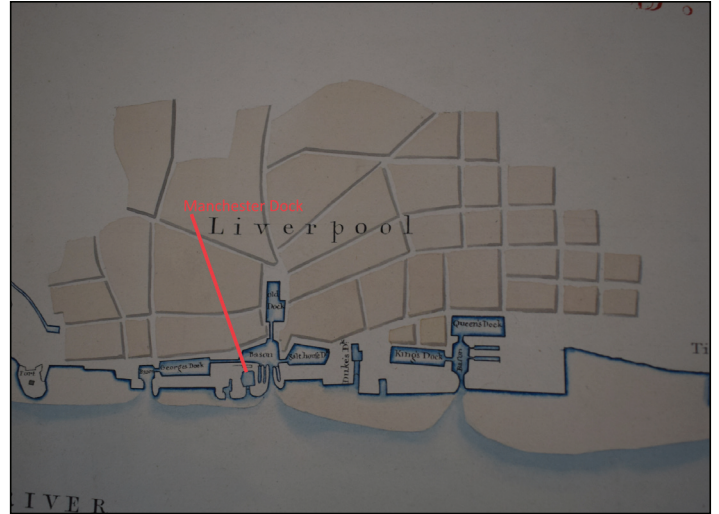
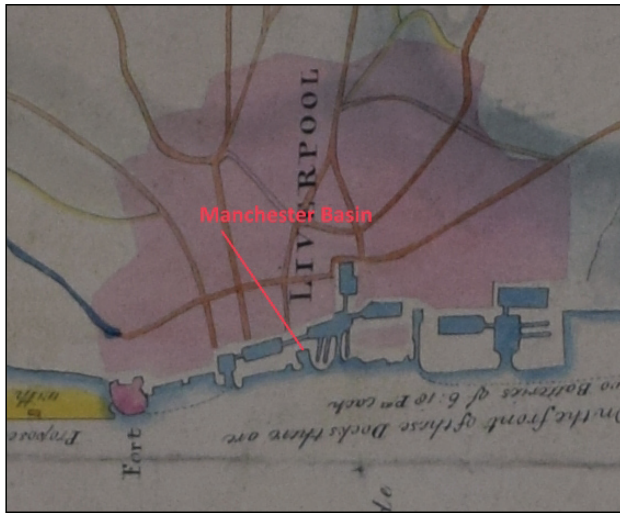
The Calderstones are open 7 days a week between 10 a.m and 4 p.m. and The Mansion House and its associated café and bookshop are open between 8.30 and 5 o'clock. For further information visit the Reader's web-site at: <https://www.thereader.org.uk/visit-calderstones/>

*Dave Roberts*

### **'New' Old Maps of Liverpool (Part 3)**

Following on from the articles in the last two newsletters, this note will discuss two other maps of Liverpool found in the National Archives.

Most readers will be aware of the excavation of Manchester Dock and Chester Basin which took place in 2007 in advance of the construction of the Museum of Liverpool. Briefly, Manchester Dock was constructed as an open tidal basin in about 1785 and Chester Basin at about the same time, both mainly to serve smaller vessels such as ferries and Mersey Flats. At the beginning of the 19th century Manchester Basin was converted to an enclosed dock by the construction of an entrance lock containing a set of lock gates



1808 and 1809 maps showing Manchester Basin and Manchester Dock respectively

(parts of these are on display in Museum of Liverpool).

Manchester Dock continued to operate throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, but by the 1920s it was obsolete and in 1927 it was filled in with waste from the excavation of the first Mersey Tunnel. The excavation of these docks was published as Gregory et al (2014) 'Archaeology at the Waterfront: Liverpool Docks'. One of the issues with writing the report was determining the date at which the lock gates were added to Manchester Dock. The map evidence available at the time was often contradictory, with Manchester Dock being shown as an open basin on maps as late as the 1820s, and it was unclear whether the earlier maps were merely showing intended works. A broad date of about 1806-1809 for the construction of the lock gates was decided upon.

The maps in this note illustrate the problem nicely. They date to the period at which the lock was added to create Manchester Dock, and although they are clearly produced from different surveys, both are signed by Captain Robert Pilkington of the Royal Engineers. Given the stylistic differences and other discrepancies in the depiction of the waterfront between the two maps (afraid there's no prize for spotting them but there are at least 3 in addition to the one discussed here), it's likely that Pilkington had used other surveys as a base for his own, which was intended to show the locations of proposed new batteries (those are beyond the edges of the excerpts here). The first map is dated 3rd December 1808 and shows Manchester Basin without lock gates. The second is dated January 1809 and shows Manchester Dock, complete with lock gates. Clearly construction of the entrance lock didn't take place in under a month, and there's an entry in the Dock Committee minute book which suggests that it was underway by March 1807.

As stated above, it seems unlikely that either is based upon a direct survey by Pilkington, both maps are more likely to be tracings from other surveys. However, the later map strongly suggests that Manchester Dock was open and operating by January 1809 at the latest and that in December 1808 Pilkington had erroneously used an earlier survey showing Manchester Basin. Further research may allow me to identify whose surveys that Pilkington had used.

Mark Adams

### Medieval vessel from Bromborough, Wirral (WREX-07A6F8)

This small ceramic vessel likely dates to c.AD 1300-1500. It is largely complete with only most of the mouth and two small handles missing. The exterior of the vessel has an olive green glaze that covers the entire surface apart from the base. The majority of the interior is covered in a brown glaze. Wire marks on the base indicate that it was wheel thrown and its fabric is a fine red clay with small sandy inclusions.

Small jars such as this one were likely used to contain ink, oil, ointments or mercury. Such small vessels have also been linked to monastic sites, which is particularly interesting when considering the close proximity of Birkenhead Priory to the find spot. Upon discussing the find with the Medieval Pottery Research Group it has been suggested that due to the fine fabric of the clay it is likely to have been imported from elsewhere. This is further apparent due to the fact that ceramic vessels dating to the late medieval period are relatively



uncommon finds in the North West of England, with no other comparative vessel so far discovered on the Portable Antiquities Scheme's database, thus making this a particularly interesting object.

The object was recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database by Dr Susie White, the Finds Liaison Officer for North Wales.

*Heather Beeton*

### **Christmas Quiz 2019 - Smardale in the Westmorland Dales**

The quiz is based on the O. S. 1:25000 Pathfinder OL19 Howgill Fells and Upper Eden Valley between grid squares NY 7004 - NY 7404 and NY 7008 - NY 7408. The Smardale area is to the north of Ravenstonedale. It can be viewed on <https://www.streetmap.co.uk> by searching for Newbiggin on Lune. Zoom to the third bar and increase the map size, then move the map around in the widow. For a different view try the National Library of Scotland side by side maps which display the pre-war 1:25000 map alongside Bing Satellite View (<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side>). The Pillow Mounds and the Romano-British settlements show up quite well on these.

**1. On Crosby Garrett Fell [NY709078] in 2010, a young metal detectorist found which one of the following ?**

- a) a Bronze Age cooking pot
- b) an Iron Age sword
- c) a Roman helmet
- d) a Viking coin hoard

**2. A long distance path devised by a famous author crosses Smardale Bridge. [NY720061] Name the author and the path.**

**3. 'Pillow Mounds' are marked at several points and are sometimes marked as 'Giant's Graves' on older maps.. Are they:-**

- a) Glacial deposits
- b) Air Raid Shelters
- c) Artificial rabbit warrens
- d) Burial mounds

**4. Find the name on the maps of the following, (e.g. 'Elevated Hanging Place' is Gallows Hill)**

- a) 'Stinging trig point'
- b) 'Wood belonging to the lord of the manor'
- c) 'Monastic farm in a lower area'
- d) 'Heathery Encroachment'

**5. Solve the anagrams of names on the map (SPACES MAY BE IGNORED):-**

- a) BREWBORN
- b) DAYWORT
- c) LLANTHRAIN
- d) LEVERASS
- e) WETDIRT CHESS

Answers: 1(c), 2 Alfred Wainright, 'Coast to Coast', 3(c), 4(a) Nettle Hill [NY716078], (b) Demesne Wood [NY729077], (c) Friar's Bottom Farm [NY711057], Lingy Intake [NY730057] 5(a) Brownber [NY704057], (b) Todwray [NY716056], (c) Tranna Hill [NY702054], (d) Severals [NY715064], (e) Witches Stride [NY728070]

*Maurice Handley*



It is with regret that MAS Council is cancelling all meetings until further notice due to the Corona Virus. This includes our AGM which is postponed until later in the year. The AGM papers with the revised date will be sent to members in due course. We also hope to run some of our field trips later in the summer and we will issue details when the current situation eases. We will keep you updated on any future changes which may occur via email, the website and social media channels. With this in mind we also plan to issue monthly bulletins to keep you all in touch. If you know someone who is not on email, it would be helpful if you could let them know. We hope that all members, their families and friends, are able to keep safe and well.

**A view from the Chair**

The study and excavation of industrial dwellings is an integral part of archaeology and a recent book by Liz Stewart, ‘Courts and Alleys – a history of Liverpool courtyard housing’, sheds light on the living conditions of the working classes in 18th and 19th century Liverpool. The black and white photographs and descriptions of life in a courtyard house leave the reader in no doubt about the unsanitary and crowded conditions in which people lived. Disease was rife and the average age at death was 15 with 65% dying at less than 5 years old. In the 21st century, we live in vastly superior conditions where typhus and cholera, diseases that were common in Liverpool’s slums, are now rare. Yet we still suffer from pollution and a virus can now virtually shut down a country, leaving people without any public transport, confined to their homes, and factories and schools closed. I wonder what this pandemic will leave in the archaeological record?

My partner is an avid family historian and like many, she enjoys visiting places where her ancestors lived, worked or were buried. Recently we visited a small cottage in rural North Wales that had been the home of one of her forebears. Nearby was a ruined medieval castle and the whole area was full of historic and pre-historic sites. I started to reflect on the idea that some of her ancestors (and possibly mine) had lived there for thousands of years. If we look at the arithmetic, the number of direct ancestors doubles in each generation - two parents, four grandparents and so on. Ten generations back gives us 1024 ancestors (or 2 to the power of 10). For more than ten generations we start to get enormous numbers and further back in pre-history, the number of ancestors will exceed the population of the world. So the conclusion is that we must all be related somewhere along the line. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why we are interested in our shared history and heritage and one way of satisfying this interest is through archaeology. This human inter-relationship is also the way in which our shared DNA allows a virus to spread rapidly and with such devastating consequences.

Meanwhile, I shall finish my term as Chair and will be replaced when we hold an AGM. I will however continue to take an active interest in the Society, not least in helping to organize our AIM 2020 conference on 10th October.

I hope that all your family and friends will be safe and well in this uncertain time.

*Maurice Handley*

**Merseyside Archaeological Society**

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**Contents**

- A note from the Chair .....1
- From the Editor.....2
- Link to On-Line Resources.....2
- MAS Conference.....3
- MoL Emerging Archaeologists.....3
- Orkney Memoirs.....3
- Early Medieval escutcheon from Rushton.4



## **From the Editor**

Over the coming weeks many of you will be occupying yourselves by reading, using on-line resources etc. In future bulletins I would therefore like to include short articles (a paragraph or two) to include photos, reports on visits to sites of interest, book reviews, details of internet links to web-sites, blogs, podcasts etc. or anything else relevant to archaeology which may be of interest to the membership. Please send contributions direct to me. As a starter, there are links below to some of the on-line resources currently available.

*Dave Roberts*

## **On Line Resources**

This is a small selection:

### ***CBA Archaeology Hub***

This is an excellent place to start. It is crammed full of interesting articles, lectures, activities for children, YouTube links, TV programmes etc. There is enough material here to occupy you for hours:

<https://blog.archaeologyuk.org/2020/03/24/archaeology-resources-hub/>

### ***British Museum***

There are 3,212 panes of glass in the domed ceiling of the British Museum's Great Court, and no two are the same – a 360-degree view in a virtual tour lets viewers examine each and every one. Beyond this magnificent space, viewers can find the Rosetta Stone, Egyptian mummies and other ancient wonders. The museum's interactive infographic platform, History Connected, goes into further depth of various objects with curators, along a timeline.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-british-museum>

### ***Natural History Museum***

From the diplodocus to the dodo, botany to butterflies, giant crystals to specimens in jars ... the Natural History Museum's vast collection has long been a favourite of both Londoners and tourists. Get lost in the corridors and gallery spaces – one treat is Dippy the dino, who despite recently going on tour still makes an appearance in the entrance hall in this interactive online guide.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/natural-history-museum>

### ***Washington, D.C.'s National Museum of Natural History***

This is one of the most-visited museums in the world and offers a peek at its wonderful treasures with an online virtual tour of the entire grounds. Viewers are welcomed into its rotunda and are greeted with a comprehensive room-by-room, 360-degree walking tour of all its exceptional exhibits, including the Hall of Mammals, Insect Zoo, and Dinosaurs and Hall of Paleobiology.

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

### ***Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Virtual Museum***

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Virtual Archaeology Museum displays videos, detailed three-dimensional (3D) models and mosaic maps of shipwrecks from the 19th and 20th centuries. Discovered by BOEM in the course of underwater research and oil and gas exploration, these shipwrecks are important submerged cultural resources that provide a unique window into our collective history. Artifacts in these shipwrecks can now be examined in thousands of feet of water. Through the use of 3D models, shipwreck sites can be viewed as a whole and changes monitored over time.

<https://www.boem.gov/environment/virtual-archaeology-museum>

## MAS Conference - date for the diary

MAS is organising a Conference entitled 'Archaeology in Merseyside 2020' to be held at the Museum of Liverpool on 10th October 2020. Planning is well underway. Further details will be announced in our monthly bulletin over the coming months as the current situation develops. In the meantime please keep this date free.

## Museum of Liverpool Emerging Archaeologists

Museum of Liverpool Emerging Archaeologists (MoLEA) will launch in 2020 as an exciting new opportunity for young people aged 16-24 to gain direct hands-on experience of their local archaeology through workshops and projects. MoLEA will meet up to ten times a year, during school holidays, for practical sessions with a focus on archaeology and will provide members with the opportunity to develop new transferrable skills and gain insights into archaeology. Sessions will offer practical hands-on experience and will take place in the Museum of Liverpool's archaeological finds room. Young people aged 16-24 who are not currently studying archaeology in higher level education are eligible to join. Dates and details of events will be announced in due course.

*Vanessa Oakden*

## Orkney Memoirs

In April/May of 2011 MAS embarked on what is still its most ambitious summer expedition in terms of distance and temporal reach. The trip was to the Orkney Islands, to visit the abundance of Neolithic and Viking sites on the islands.

The first trip was to a chamber tomb on a headland on the Loch of Stennes, dated to around 3000 BC. The choice for location of the site has had various theories. It was thought the tomb (and similar ones) were placed in territories, this then morphed into a theory that they were on trade routes. However, the precise reason for choice of location is still a matter of debate. The tomb consists of a number of cells that emanate from the central passage



The next trip was to the Stones of Stennes and the Ring of Brodgar. Both of these date to around 2500-3000 BC and it has been shown that both were surrounded by ditches with mounds on the outside. In other words, they are henges. Of the 60 stones at Brodgar, 20 or so are still standing and half of these were re-erected at the start of the 20th century. When one of the stones was erected it was found to have Norse runes carved into it. The runes were twigs and have been translated as 'Bjorn'. Although translated by a scholar (Olson), the theory is not widely accepted.



The settlement of Skara Brae consists of the remains of houses. These were built of stones, topped with either animal skin or turf. Large amounts of whale bones have been found in the houses and - bizarrely, fragments of North American spruce. The theory is that this was drift wood.

There were visits to other sites, too numerous to mention, but the highlight of the trip was the Ness of Brodgar. This site lies on the strip of land that contains the Stones of Stennes and Ring of Brodgar. The Ness is a monumental complex dating from about 3200 BC but was closed down around 2500 BC. Many of the structures have very thick (3-4 m) walls, with piers, hearths and recesses. One of the structures was closed with a large slaughter of cattle followed by dismantling. The bones of the slain animals were found around the structure.

If you have the chance to visit Orkney I can say with confidence that you will not be disappointed.

*Chris Wood.*

### Early Medieval escutcheon from Rushton, Cheshire West and Chester (LVPL-65CF33)



This is a cast copper alloy zoomorphic escutcheon from an early medieval hanging bowl dated c.AD 500-700. The escutcheon is in the form of a horse head and neck. The terminal has a stumped, rounded snout with an indentation running horizontally across the end. Sitting above the snout is the animal's head which has a prominent brow with a deeply incised hole for an eye on either side of the head. Beyond the head is a slight groove, after which two worn bumps are present, perhaps formally representing the ears.

Behind the ears, the neck of the object curves into a C-shape. At the top of the neck are details of the mane represented through a series of incised diagonal lines that stem from the centre of the neck downwards on both sides. There are at least three of these lines on each side.

© National Museums Liverpool

At the terminal of the neck is a portion of the plate that was originally attached to the vessel. The plate has an inverted sub-triangular shape and has a slightly concaved face. The attachment plate and snout of the animal are precisely level. The plate has a length of 24mm; width 17mm and thickness 2mm. The object has a dark brown and light green patina with some pitting on the surface.

This piece was originally one of a set of hooked-mounts, normally three, attached by their plates around the body of a circular copper-alloy bowl and fixed below the rim so that each hook projected above it. Each hook held a metal ring with a cord or strap attached used to hang the bowl from a central point. Hanging bowls are specialist luxury vessels with Roman-period origins, and were made in the early medieval period only in Britain and later Ireland. They were highly prized objects and were often included in burials.

A published example can be found in *West, S. (1998) A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Material from Suffolk, East Anglian Archaeology, Suffolk County Council. p.315 fig.156.*

*Heather Beeton – Finds Liaison Officer Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside*



**From the Editor**

Welcome to the May News Bulletin although it may be early June before you receive it. This issue is a little different to past Newsletters. It concentrates very much on the kind of archaeological work that can be accomplished in these changing times. I shall say no more but let you decide when you read the excellent articles submitted by Roy and Maurice. There are also other snippets of news which may interest you.

On a more practical note the MAS Council meeting scheduled for 13th May went ahead using Zoom. The majority of Council members were present and although we were not able to make too many decisions regarding future events we are keeping in touch and moving the Society forward as best we can. The main item of discussion was the postponed AGM which we intend to hold at the earliest opportunity. All events including field trips, lectures and our October Conference are still on hold and we will be monitoring the situation closely over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I hope you are all well, staying safe (and alert) and hopefully we shall be able to meet up face to face in the very near future. Until the next time...

*Dave Roberts*

**Archaeology is Everywhere**



*Two Butt Bridge Rainhill*

Even during COVID-19 restrictions we can see archaeology all around us. When I go out for a ‘permitted’ walk there’s much to see in the landscape. I know that buried in front of our house are the remains of a Victorian isolation hospital where patients with tuberculosis were nursed back to health. The foundations were revealed in a recent excavation for utility services for a new housing estate. The hospital’s former presence explains why there are so many mature trees in a modern housing estate. The road is called Sandstone Drive and

it branches from Delph Lane. ‘Delph’ is an old word for quarry and here there used to be two sandstone quarries providing building stone for the local area and expanding nineteenth century Liverpool. Those quarries have been filled in; houses now stand on one of them and the other is a car park for Whiston hospital.

A short walk takes me to Two Butt Lane leading down to a footpath crossing a small stream over a narrow sandstone bridge. The low parapet walls on the bridge suggest

**Merseyside Archaeological Society**

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

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

**Contents**

From the Editor.....	1
Archaeology is Everywhere.....	1
Victoria Street.....	2
Coastal Archaeology in Merseyside.....	5
Museum of Liverpool.....	6
Liverpool University.....	6
Link to On-Line Resources.....	6

it could be a pack horse bridge, possibly medieval. 'Butt' in the name of the lane possibly referred to ridge and furrow cultivation although there's no sign of it now. Perhaps the Tithe Map might show the reversed 'S' shape of the field boundaries but I'll have to wait until the local archive opens again.

On another day I cycled down into St Helens in warm sunshine. My route takes me past the scant remains of a coal mine in Thatto Heath and through Ravenhead where the first plate glass works were established in the eighteenth century. A short section of the Sankey Canal is still in water alongside the World of Glass Museum and Pilkington's nineteenth century cone-house. The canal tow path is lined with stone sleeper blocks discarded from a local railway.

Returning home, I pass Factory Row, a terrace of workers' houses built in the early nineteenth century for the employees of the local glass works. A cul-de-sac called Royal Grove is named after a coal mine which stood nearby in the nineteenth century. I wonder if the name commemorates an event in a monarch's reign. Nearby, is a chapel built using blocks of copper slag - a waste product of the copper smelting industry which once flourished in St Helens.

Archaeology is everywhere. Perhaps when you go out for a walk or short bike ride you can look around you and spot archaeological evidence which you hadn't noticed before. It might not be an Iron Age Hill Fort or a Romano-British Villa but who knows.....

*Maurice Handley*



*Capped Coal Mine Shaft - Alexandra Colliery*

## Excavations in Victoria Street

*[Note from the Editor: The following article is an interim report. The final version is forthcoming].*

Throughout the city centre there are road improvement works taking place. Victoria Street is having improvement works done in the form of roadway narrowing to provide wider pavements. This work requires excavation and I always try to use Victoria Street when walking between museum venues to see what is being exposed below the old surfaces.

Victoria Street differs from most streets in the city centre as it did does not reflect the early street pattern. Before the 1830s the commercial quarter around Castle Street and Water Street used the historic street layout with principal roads such as London Road and Scotland Road radiating from the town limits. With the coming of the railways, in particular Lime Street station, and the surrounding civic buildings such as St Georges Hall the most appropriate route was no longer the historic 'H' street pattern such as Dale Street and Lord Street.

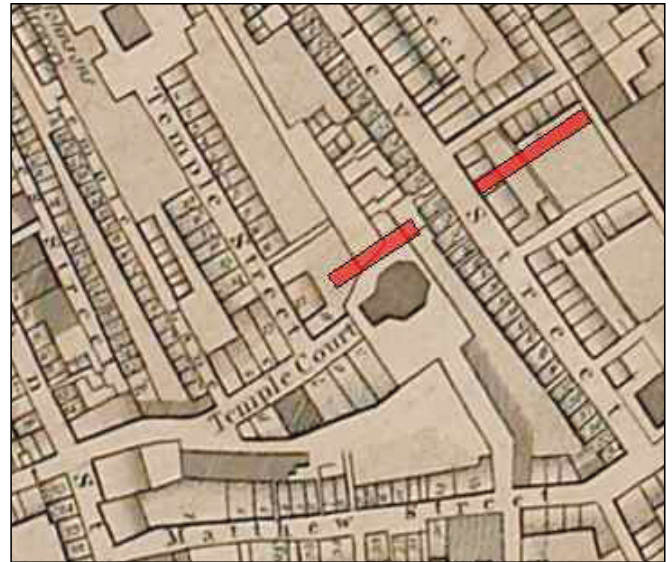


*Victoria Street, May 2020*

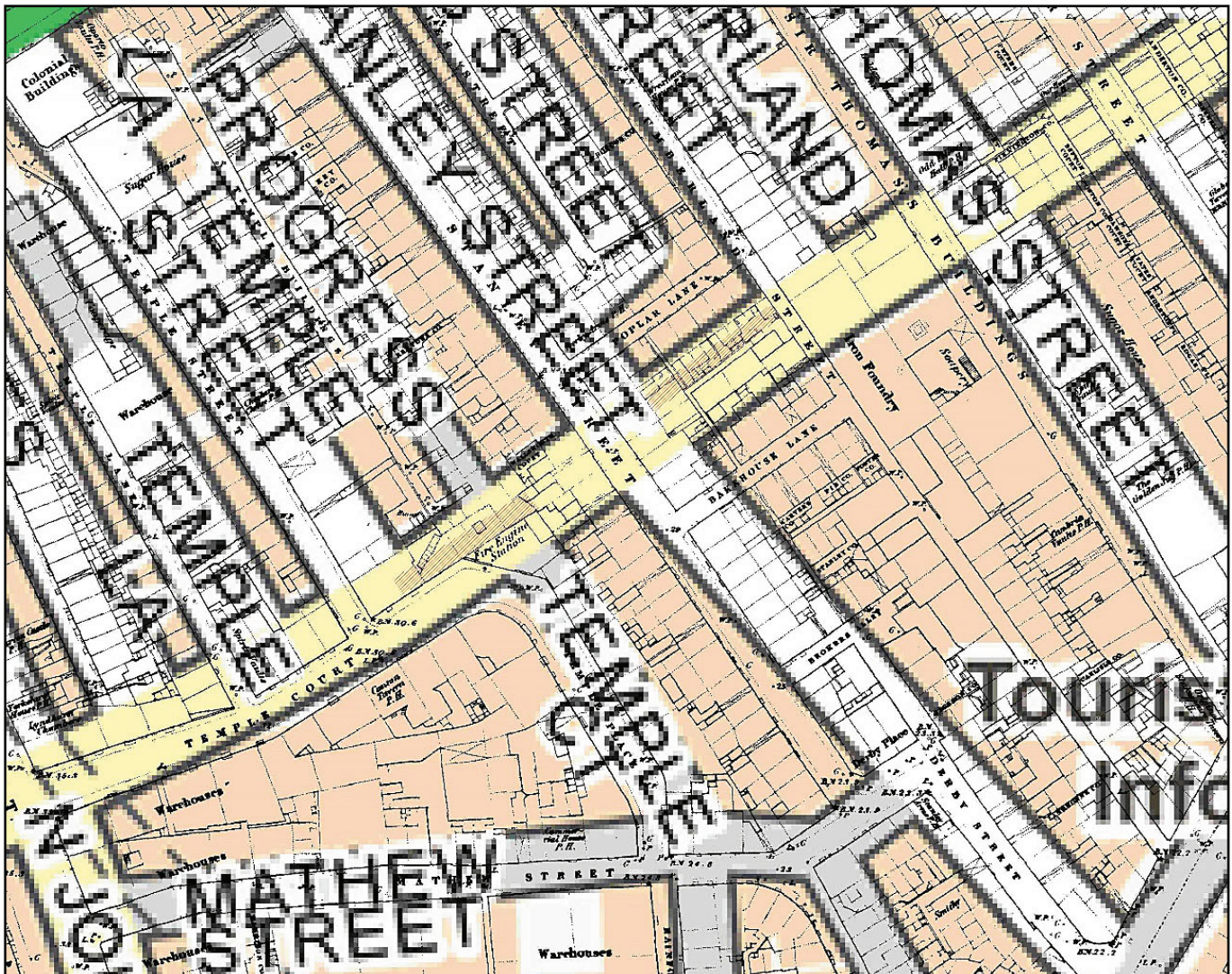
The most direct route between these two important areas was obstructed by early developments with a roughly North / South road pattern instead of the preferred East / West. The solution was to punch a new road through the middle of this 18th century area as a main form of communication and in 1868 Victoria Street opened. The western end concentrated on the fruit and provisions trade whilst the eastern end closest to St Georges Hall was predominantly offices and the Midland Railway Warehouse.

There are a few reminders of the earlier road pattern. Temple Court was a small 'L' shaped road off North John Street and was named after the temple that stood at the end of the road.

Horwood's map of 1803 shows the temple. The red marks are the excavations examined during the street works. The kink in the road can be clearly seen which is still present in the streetscape as seen in the previous photograph. By superimposing the 1849 town plan over modern Ordnance Survey open data it is possible to appreciate what a dramatic effect this Victorian town planning had on the earlier street pattern. Victoria Street is shown in yellow on the plan below and the buildings outlined in black are from the 1849 plan.



Horwood Map 1803



1849 town plan superimposed over the modern Ordnance Survey map

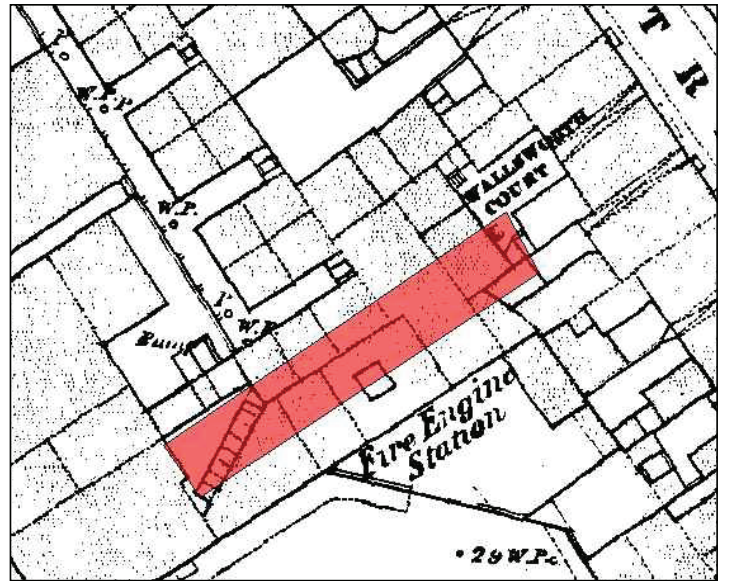
### Trench 1

The two photographs below are in the first trench. A glazed floor tile and the 'T' junction of a brick wall can be seen.

Referring to the Town Plan the brickwork is probably a wall at the back of the fire station which was one of two large stations in Liverpool which was eventually replaced by Hatton Garden.

In 1826 a Fire Police was formed and two stations were built, one near the Exchange and one on the south. According to the fire brigade website each station would have 20 working men consisting of 16 fire men and four carters. There would also be a house for the foreman, a large 30,000 gallon cistern, stabling for eight horses and space for four engines plus a light carriage to carry buckets.

Kaye's Strangers guide to Liverpool states, '...the Fire Police station Temple Place, Temple Court had 15 powerful fire engines each of which had ample supply of hose, fire escapes, water carts, two large tanks which can be drawn by horses capable of being drawn to the neighbourhood of a fire each capable of containing seven tons of water. At the principal station horses are kept harnessed day and night in readiness for instant departure...'



The red rectangle shows the location of Trench 1



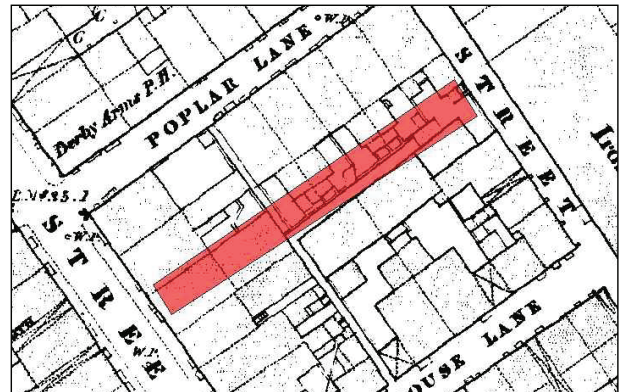
View of Trench 1. A glazed floor tile and the 'T' junction of a brick wall can be seen.



### Trench 2



View of Trench 2 and its location.



A little further east along Victoria Street just before Cumberland Street, a long line of stonework and brickwork was exposed. It has the appearance of a continuous wall possibly of a building rather than a boundary wall. It was very difficult to fight the urge to get through the fence and have a quick clean with a trowel.

Referring to the Town Plan again, the masonry appears to be the rear passageway serving buildings on Poplar Lane or the rear of the larger building at the back of Bakehouse Lane. Other remains associated with Victoria Street itself included a tram rail. This was a twin track and is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map.



*Reclaimed tram rails and their position on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map.*

Despite the odd strange glance from the road gang it is well worth taking a look at what lurks below the streets of Liverpool.

*Roy Forshaw*

### Coastal archaeology in Merseyside

Andy Sherman and Chris Kolonko of CITiZAN have been doing quite a lot of preparation work for communities and members of the public to get involved with recording and appreciating coastal archaeology in the Liverpool Bay Discovery Programme. You can see several news items and learn how to become involved on the website:

<https://citizan.org.uk/discovery-programmes/liverpool-bay/>

Even in lockdown you can visit your local beach or coastline provided you follow the current COVID19 guidance. But if you don't fancy that, and prefer or need to be an armchair archaeologist, there are plenty of interesting blog items to look at. Andy & Chris have prepared two low-tide trails, which will be launched online soon which provide self-guided tours of particular stretches of coast and these will cover Liverpool and New Brighton. Look out for details in a forthcoming MAS newsletter. Andy will be speaking about our local coastal heritage at the MAS AIM2020 (Archaeology in Merseyside 2020) conference on 10th October (book the date!).

I hope that has whetted your appetite, the two excellent booklets created by Alison Burns for the Sefton Coastal Landscape Partnership HLF project are still accessible online via Alison's Academia page (NB if you haven't used Academia before, you simply have to register for free at Academia.edu). One booklet is about the Prehistoric Footprints at Formby

[https://www.academia.edu/8297938/The\\_Prehistoric\\_Footprints\\_at\\_Formby](https://www.academia.edu/8297938/The_Prehistoric_Footprints_at_Formby)

and you can also visit the National Trust's Formby website which leads to a link to a guide to identification of footprints (NB they never look that clear when I find any!).

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby/features/prehistoric-footprints-at-formby>





The other excellent booklet by Alison is *Forgotten Fort Crosby: Dune Heritage Revealed* which can be found at:

[https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten\\_Fort\\_Crosby\\_Dune\\_Heritage\\_Revealed](https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten_Fort_Crosby_Dune_Heritage_Revealed)

Merseyside has a huge range of coastal and maritime archaeology, from mesolithic footprints to 20th century wartime defences. Even more information is available in the Rapid Coastal Survey Assessment of North West England which compiled data available from aerial photographs (and, of course, a lot of survey flights were made in the 1940s, revealing some wartime heritage that no longer exists). It is available to download from <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/nwrcza/> but be warned that it is 11MB in size.

Our local coastal area is covered in Chapter 5 A review of the archaeology from the Dee Estuary (Cheshire) to Seaforth (Merseyside) NB ignore the incorrect Chapter 5 heading in the contents page! and Chapter 6 A review of the archaeology from the Royal Seaforth Dock (Merseyside) to the River Wyre (Lancashire). The maps are very interesting and this survey did a lot to highlight the coastal potential for wartime heritage around the docks in Liverpool (and also in Barrow-in-Furness, which receive similar attention).

*Sue Stallibrass*

### **Museum of Liverpool**

The Museum of Liverpool has a new archaeology resources page on their website for some Merseyside focused archaeology home learning. You can download a fact and activity sheet about Prehistoric Merseyside and Roman Merseyside and more resources will be added in the coming weeks.

Visit <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology-learning-resources>.

### **Liverpool University**

Dr Clare Downham, from the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool has put together some fantastic information and colouring sheets all about the Vikings based on her research on the Vikings in Merseyside. A special thanks goes to Dr J Robert Travis for creating the artwork. You can download them using the link below or head to the MAS Facebook page and follow the link there.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences/research/projects/viking-colouring-sheets/>

### **On-Line Resources**

#### ***Peterloo and the archaeology of protest in C19 Manchester – a Twitter conference paper***

<https://archaeologytea.wordpress.com/2020/04/30/peterloo-and-the-archaeology-of-protest-in-c19-manchester-a-twitter-conference-paper/>

#### ***The Folly Flâneuse: rambles to, and ramblings about, follies, and landscape buildings (blog) (several in NW and northern England)***

<https://thefollyflaneuse.com/>

#### ***The largest Pictish site ever discovered in Scotland***

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/news/14019/>

#### ***Robert and James Adams' Grand Tour letters and writings, 1754-1763***

<https://adamgrandtour.online/>



**From the Editor**

Welcome to the June News Bulletin. We keep to the theme of the last couple of issues with a mixture of articles and news. In this edition Maurice continues his discoveries under the banner of ‘Archaeology is Everywhere’. Mark has contributed an article on the ‘Sandstone Project’. Roy has undertaken further research into the origins of Liverpool’s streets and Ben reports on an interesting new discovery in Sefton. If any MAS members who live around Sefton have any further information I’m sure Ben will be delighted to hear from you.

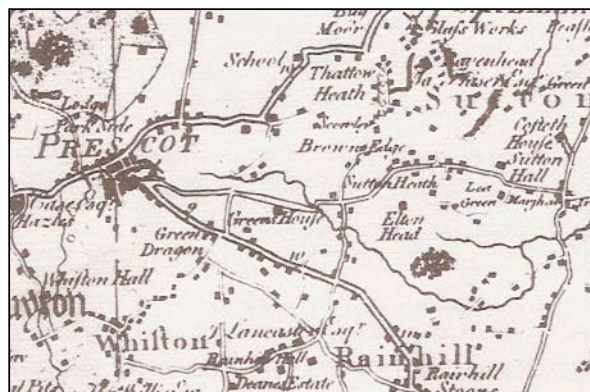
June has been a pretty busy month for myself. Typesetting is well underway on the forthcoming Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society 16, with about two thirds of the Volume completed. Work has resumed on the graveyard survey at Childwall. Over 2100 monuments have been recorded, with about 20 modern graves still to be looked at.

We still do not have any firm information on fieldtrips, the Autumn lecture programme and our October Conference but we have a Council meeting scheduled for mid-July. We are very hopeful that we shall be able to let you have some good news soon.

Dave Roberts

**Archaeology is Virtually Everywhere**

The Covid-19 crisis has forced many of us to work, study and research on-line at home. In last month’s Newsletter, I wrote about the packhorse bridge on Two Butt Lane in Rainhill and on a rainy day in June, I tried to find out more about the bridge and the brook it crosses. The first place to look on



Yates 1786 showing Pendlebury Brook

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**Contents**

- From the Editor.....1
- Archaeology is Virtually Everywhere.....1
- Operation Sandstone.....2
- A Pottery Site on Shaw’s Brow.....4
- A new Medieval cross base in Sefton?.....9
- Museum of Liverpool.....10
- Link to On-Line Resources.....11

the Internet is the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway.<sup>1</sup> The MHER entry informs us that the stream is called the Pendlebury Brook. It can be seen on Yates 1786 map of Lancashire, where Two Butt Lane crosses it at a dog-leg between Prescott and Sutton Heath.<sup>2</sup>

To trace the brook's route I used the National Library of Scotland's Side by Side Maps on which you can locate a point on a late 19th century OS map in tandem with an up to date Bing satellite view.<sup>3</sup> There is a choice of maps and the National Grid Reference is also given for the location of the pointer. I also accessed the 1st edition 6" OS map which shows the next bridge downstream is named 'Hanging Bridge' where it carries the road from Rainhill to Thatto Heath.<sup>4</sup> The bridge marks the junction of three civil parishes and its name may derive from the practice of hanging at a liminal location. Nearby, is the former site of Hangingbridge House recorded on deeds from 1637 so the bridge is likely to have been in existence then.<sup>5</sup>

Moving further downstream using the National Library of Scotland's maps, the brook passes underneath the Liverpool to Manchester railway line, the first inter-city passenger railway in the world. In 1829 this stretch of the railway was used for the 'Rainhill Trials' competition, won by the Rocket locomotive. The brook passes St Anne's Well<sup>6</sup>, a holy well and scheduled monument on the edge of a cultivated field. Oxford Archaeology excavated the site in 2016 and re-exposed the well. It lies on private land but can be spotted as a rectangular feature on Google satellite maps.

Beyond the modern A570 St Helens Linkway the brook flows under Chapel Lane in Micklehead, The 1st Edition O. S. map (Sheet 108) records 'Sutton Smalt Works' at this point and later 19<sup>th</sup> century maps show it as 'Brook Works (Ultramarine and Smalts)'. The term 'smalt' had been mentioned during a recent virtual MAS Council meeting using Zoom. It transpired that Salford Archaeology excavated the site of The Seacombe Smalt Works'.<sup>7</sup> Smalt is a pigment used by artists (Ultramarine and Cobalt Blue) and it is also used to colour glass and ceramics. The Brook Works<sup>8</sup> manufactured 'Dolly Blue', an additive used by my Mum when she was washing white sheets but that was before we had TV at home and the only computer I used was called a 'slide rule'.

*(Endnotes)*

1 [www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

2 MHER ref. MME7176 Stone Bridge, Two Butt Lane, Rainhill .  
Yates Map is reproduced in Lewis, J. & Cowell, R. 2002 'The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape – The Last Thousand Years' *J. Merseyside Archaeological Society* 11 p193

3 <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/>

4 'Sheet 107', in Map of Lancashire (Southampton, 1846-1873), British History Online  
<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/os-1-to-10560/lancashire/107>

5 MME 7434 Hanging Bridge, MME 14789 Former location of Hangingbridge House, Elton Head Road, Sutton.

6 MME7415 St Anne's Well, Rainhill

7 <https://lbdaily.co.uk/archaeologists-offer-window-wirral-industrial-past>

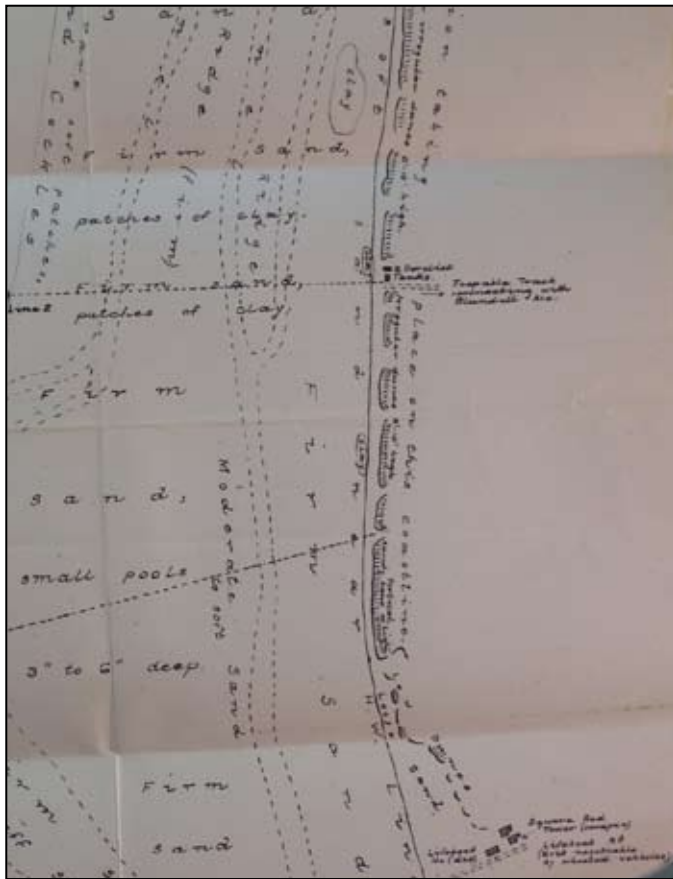
8 <https://www.suttonbeauty.org.uk/suttonhistory/industry1/> (click on 'Brook's Blue Works; accessed 16/062020)

*Maurice Handley*

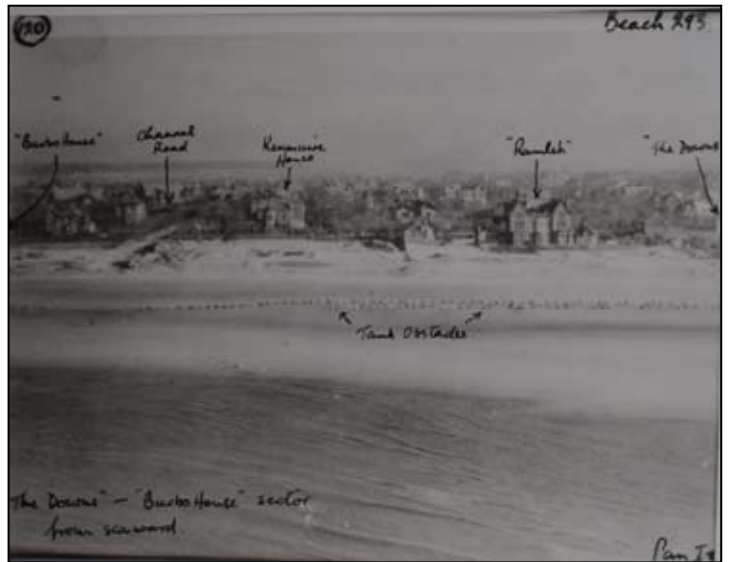
## **Operation Sandstone, the Defences of the Mersey and Prehistoric Peat**

Most members of MAS will be familiar with the Prehistoric footprint exposures at Formby Point and also with Alison Burns' excellent booklet on Fort Crosby, produced for the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership (Digital copies can be downloaded here [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283300960\\_Forgotten\\_Fort\\_Crosby\\_Dune\\_Heritage\\_Revealed](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283300960_Forgotten_Fort_Crosby_Dune_Heritage_Revealed)).

Whilst doing the background research for the Fort Crosby Booklet I came across the Admiralty's 'Operation



Lifeboat Road map showing the 'clay beds'.



General view of the WW II defences at Crosby



'Dragon's Teeth' defences at Crosby.

Sandstone' files which are held by the National Archives at Kew (the file ref is ADM326). Operation Sandstone began in 1947 and was a survey of the UK's beaches designed to allow re-invasion should the country be over-run. Most of the survey work was undertaken in the 1950s and provides a fascinating record of the UK coastline at the time. The level of detail seems to vary markedly, some beaches just have a sketch map and a couple of photographs, though the Mersey coast seems to have had a lot of attention paid to it. There are no dates on the Merseyside surveys but they probably date to 1955, just after the closure of Fort Crosby. My initial interest was in Fort Crosby, and the survey produced some fantastic photographs which made it into Alison's book, but I also found a lot of other material, some of which is detailed below.

The files provide some oblique evidence for exposure of the Prehistoric footprint beds at Formby Point. The map of Lifeboat Road shows beds of clay just in front of the dunes; though unfortunately it doesn't mention footprints, the surveyors were more interested in access for landing craft, tanks and jeeps, but I think these must be the footprint beds. If that is the case then this is one of the first records of these outcrops. I'd heard anecdotal evidence of people visiting them in the 1950s, but this is the first contemporary record.

However, the files main significance is as a record of WWII defences made before most were cleared in the late 1950s and 60s. For example, the beach at Crosby was defended by lines of concrete pyramids known as Dragon's Teeth. Photographs of the Crosby defences are surprisingly rare given the popularity of that stretch of coast and the Operation Sandstone photographs are a relatively detailed record, including some low-level oblique aerial photographs which allows their extent to be plotted.



An early photo of rubble from central Liverpool dumped on the beach at Crosby

Sand extraction on the Sefton coastline.

Further to the north the files include some of the earliest photographs of the rubble from central Liverpool which was the subject of Emma Marsh's research and the recent BBC documentary: (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-49926429>)

One less well known aspect of the Sefton Coast's more recent history is the industrial scale extraction of sand. Quarrying of the dunes seems to have begun in the 1930s and continued into the late 1960s or early 1970s, reaching a peak in the 1940s and 50s. Anecdotally the sand was used to fill sand-bags during World War II. However, records are sparse and little is known of the location of sand-pits. The Operation Sandstone files contain several photographs of the sand-pits including the one above which also shows one of the machines used to extract sand. Aerial photographs of the Formby area mark the location of some sand-pits, though details are difficult to make out.

The Merseyside files also contain views of significant roads and other features immediately inland from the coast and provide an interesting record of the landscape in the mid-1950s.

Mark Adams

### A Pottery Site on Shaw's Brow.

In a recent MAS talk an illustration was shown of an early structure in Liverpool. The question was whether it was in fact a pottery kiln. I decided to do a bit of research and found the following.

The structure has been recorded at least twice. A colour illustration exists in the Herdman collection No 459 and is reproduced in Kay Parrots '*Pictorial Liverpool The Art of WG and William Herdman*' describing the image as Seth Pennington's works on the North Side of Shaw's Brow. The pottery specialism was punch bowls and imitation Oriental ware.

Knowles Boney's *Liverpool Porcelain of the Eighteenth Century and its Makers* has a different image from the same viewpoint describing Seth Pennington's oven in the 1850s. This can be a little confusing as by then it had ceased to be a pottery manufacturer. In both illustrations the kiln design is different to the



*Shaw's Brow. Herdman collection image No 459*



*Image from Knowles Boney 'Liverpool Porcelain of the Eighteenth Century and its Makers'*

Staffordshire pottery kilns. There is no cone as such and the flue appears to be to the side of the oven with a separate chimney.

In James Stonehouse's *'Streets of Liverpool'*, published in 1869 he refers to Herdman's illustration as a cone from the old pottery works, being in the same yard as Mr Parker's well. The well was famous for the quality of its water as a newspaper advert states below.

*"At Edmund Parker's pump, on Shaw's Brow, may be had water at 9d. per butt, for watering shipping or sugar houses ; and is as soft for washing, boiling pease, &c., as any in the town. Any merchant or captain of a ship, &c., sending to his house, next to Mr. Chaffer's china pothouse, may be served immediately by their humble servant, Edmund Parker."*

### **Locating the Works**



*Gore's map of 1796*

It was initially difficult to pinpoint the position of the cone as the Town plan of 1848 only shows a windmill. It is made a little clearer by a publication from 1863 *'Recollections of Old Liverpool by a nonagenarian'* John Hughes. In it he states *'The wells on Shaw's Brow were all laid open when the alteration took place in that vicinity. One of the wells was used at an emery mill, which was once the cone of a pottery. One of the wells was found where the Library is now erected.'* Therefore the windmill and the kiln were the same but the confusion is caused through the Knowles Boney caption to the illustration. Herdman was also known to use earlier illustrations to reproduce in his style so therefore his illustrations are not necessarily applicable to the date drawn. We will look at the date of the pottery a little later.

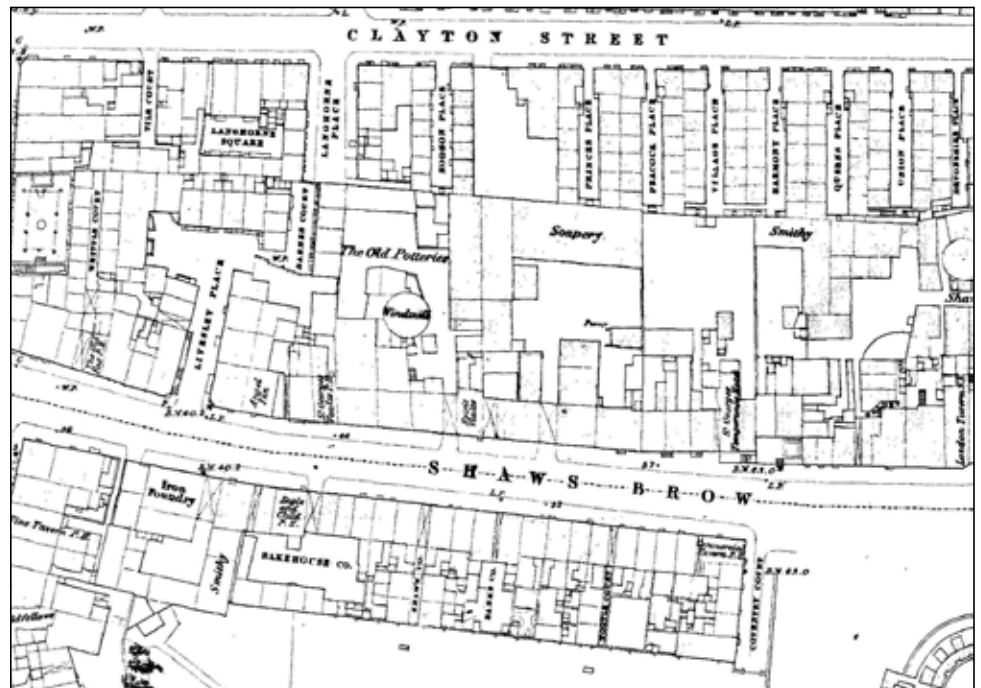
Looking into the development of the area we see on Gore's map of 1796 a windmill on the site of the present Picton Library plus a further mill on Islington Row where Mill Lane is now dividing the Walker Art Gallery from the County Sessions House. This site is now occupied by the Walker Art gallery picture store. The pottery and various other buildings off Shaw's Brow back onto open ground.



*Gage's map dated 1835 and detail showing location of the pottery*

By the time of Gage's map of 1835 we see Clayton Street occupying the vacant land behind the pottery which is dominated by Court Housing. The pottery is located above the 'H' in the Shaws Brow street name and the red circle indicates the Kiln / Windmill position.

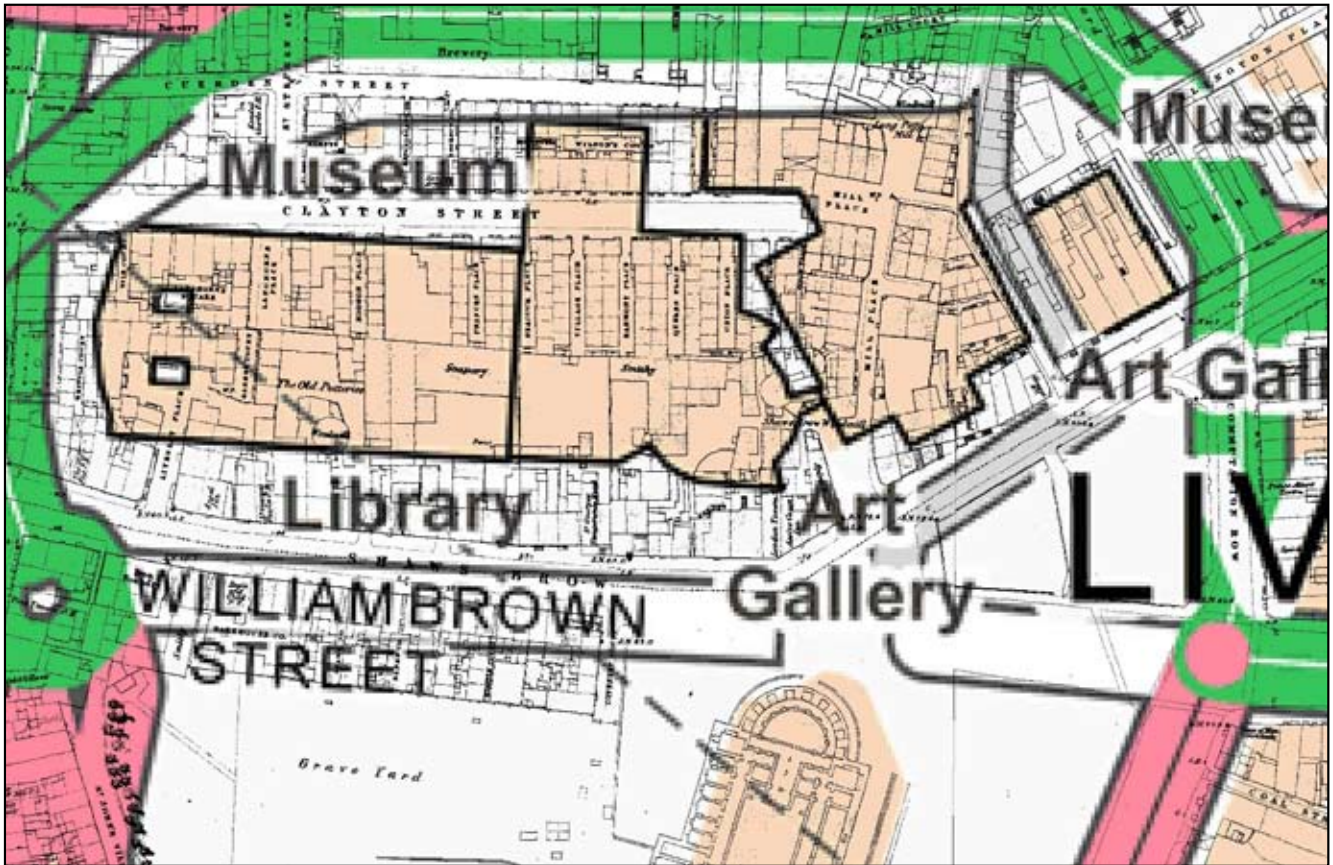
The most detailed map available is the 1849 Town Plan which identifies the pottery site and the kiln converted into a windmill. There are what can be termed as unsociable industries all around such as a soapery and foundry. The court housing to the rear, by design, had a reputation for poor health conditions. The burial ground in what is now St George's gardens was also well over its capacity and was itself creating a nuisance. Clearance and improvement was necessary. By this time the construction of St Georges Hall had started in 1841 and opened in 1854 and gradually the older buildings were demolished and more prestigious buildings took their place.



*Liverpool 1849 town plan*

You will not find Shaw's Brow on any modern map but it is in fact William Brown Street. Shaw's Brow was named after either Samuel Shaw, if Muir is correct, or Alderman Thomas Shaw who owned a pottery on the street and who was Mayor in 1794. The street changed its name in recognition of Sir William Brown's donation towards the Town Museum built 1857 – 60. The Walker Art Gallery and County Sessions House followed and finally the Central Technical School.

What is the relationship between Shaw's Brow buildings and the World Museum which occupies William Brown Street? As you pass through the main entrance of The World Museum you walk over the site of the windmill



1849 Town Plan overlaying modern Ordnance Survey data. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019

and standing in the museum atrium you can imagine being in the courtyard of the pottery. The relationship can be seen by comparing the 1849 town plan with modern Ordnance Survey Open Data.

### ***Seth Pennington's Pottery***

Very briefly the history of the pottery is as follows. Many books have been written about this important site including the manufactureres who produced on the site before the Penningtons. The illustrations which lead to this article only relate to the end of the pottery period when the site was in decline after failing to compete with its competitors in Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

Ramsay Muir in '*Bygone Liverpool*' published in 1913 writes about Shaw's Brow:

*'The industry whose sudden decay was most to be lamented was the pottery industry, of one branch of which Liverpool had been the main centre during the eighteenth century. The original inventor of the process of printing from engraved plates on pottery, John Sadler, had set up his pot-works in Harrington Street. But the great centre of the industry was Shaw's Brow ...which took its name from Samuel Shaw, a great master of the art in the first half of the eighteenth century.*

*Here almost the whole population was engaged in this artistic craft down to the end of the century, and there was a nest of potters' ovens here. In the middle of the century there were fourteen firms in the city engaged in this craft, six of them in Shaw's Brow ; and some of them produced work of high merit, specimens ... But the Liverpool pottery industry was killed by that of Staffordshire, ... the industry died out completely and the only*





*Shaw's Brow c 1850. Herdman collection image No 1462*

*explanation that can be given is that the conditions existing in Liverpool were increasingly hostile to the maintenance of a fine craft. In 1815 all the original potteries had died out.'*

Seth Pennington was a second-generation potter in the Pennington family. He was born in 1744 and after being a journeyman earthenware potter he changed to making china at 12 Shaw's Brow taking over the Christian's china works around 1778. Residing in 46 Shaw's Brow for a short while after selling up in 1784 he moved into the house at No 12 working over the shop, so to speak.

Mayer in *Lancashire and Cheshire Transactions 1854-55* recounted a story as follows:

*'Mr. Pennington was celebrated for making a very rich blue colour, for the recipe of which he was offered by a Staffordshire house 1000 guineas ; but he refused the offer, as it was a source of great profit to him, being kept so secret that none ever mixed the colours but himself. But about twelve months after the offer was made to him, another manufacturer produced the same tint of colour. It was said that his brother James, having persuaded him to tell the secret to him, and being a wild and extravagant young man, who had run through all his property, which he spent in dissipation, afterwards in a drunken fit divulged the secret to one of his pot companions, who immediately sold the recipe to the Staffordshire potter, and by this means the establishment of a rival in making their celebrated blue colour, destroyed the monopoly which he had created by his industry. After this disgraceful and thoughtless act, James Pennington and his family removed to Worcester, where one of his children painted a dinner service for the Duke of York, which at that time was considered to be a beautiful specimen of the art.'*

It can only be imagined that there may have been amendments for the Pennington's Christmas card list following this incident.

Mayer visited Seth Pennington's daughter who showed him a collection of his work which he described as:

*'...Mr. Pennington was celebrated for his punch bowls, of which he made many very large ones, the earliest of which has in the inside a ship in full sail, and underneath is written, "Success to the Monmouth, 17CO." The outside is ornamented with birds, a butterfly, and trees, done in bright yellow and green. It was presented to me by Mrs. Twentyman, of Duke street. Another punch bowl has a subject on the outside, two sailors, one sitting on the stock of an anchor and holding in one of his hands a punch bowl, in the other a word ; the other sailor sits astride a barrel, whilst between them is a large chest or box, on which is written "Spanish Gold." Inside the bowl is a ship in full sail, and underneath is "1779, success to the Isabella;" the whole done in blue colour.*



*National Museums Liverpool has a collection of Pennington ware in store which is of fine quality and supports Shaw's Brow's reputation of producing fine pottery.*

*The largest punch bowl I have seen is one made at this manufactory ; it is 20½ inches in diameter, and stands 9 inches high. The ornaments are painted in blue colour. It has on the outside a landscape, with horses and trees, a church in the distance, and in the foreground two bridges, on which stand two men fishing in the water below. In the inside of the bowl is a group, consisting of ships and boats, surrounded by a deep border of trophies of warlike instruments, flags, swords, drums, trumpets, &c., arranged in six groups, which are divided by different kinds of shot, namely, chain, crescent, arrow, or triangle, shell with fusee burning, cross or bar, and grape shot...'*

It is difficult to identify when the pottery was last in production but 1806 seems to be the last date when the firm 'Pennington and Edwards' appeared in trade directories. Certainly by 1855 it was milling emery rather than pot making.

Roy Forshaw

### **A new Medieval cross base in Sefton?**



On a recent U3A walk led by Mike Morris it was noticed that there is a large stone with a socket in one face on the south side of Broom's Cross Road, on the north side of a balancing pond by Netherton Brook at SD 35851 00529. Tony Taylor on the walk suggested it was possibly a cross base.

It appears that the stone may have been found during the road building scheme and put up (sideways) as part of this. The road builders have been contacted in the hope that someone may remember where it was found. There is a likely site nearby though: the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6” OS map of 1850 shows a footpath between The Lodge in Netherton and Sefton Hall which crossed the township boundary c.40m from the stone’s current position (the red X on the map above).

The map is reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland (<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>).

*Ben Croxford*

## Museum of Liverpool

### *Climate Environment and Archaeology*

#### **2020 Museum of Liverpool Archaeology Twitter Conference Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2020**



*Plastic Archaeology!*

As part of this year’s Council for British Archaeology’s Festival of Archaeology the Museum of Liverpool is excited to be hosting its second archaeological Twitter Conference. This year’s theme is Climate, Environment and Archaeology. How have changes in the climate impacted societies in the past and what can we learn from them? How can museums use their archaeological collections to help us learn about the impact of climate change? How is climate change affecting archaeology and how can archaeology inform us and help us learn about these changes? How do museums control the climates in which their objects are stored and displayed? This conference will address these questions and more and we would like you to get involved.

***How a Twitter Conference works:*** *A Twitter conference means that anyone anywhere can attend, and you can even catch up after the event by following our hashtag #ArchMol20. The conference will be hosted by @MuseumLiverpool which will introduce the conference and each speaker.*

*Each presenter will be given 15 minutes during which they will tweet their presentation Twitter thread of around 10 tweets. Each tweet can include images, links, gifs etc and will need to include our hashtag #ArchMol20.*

**#Hashtag: [#ArchMol20](https://twitter.com/ArchMol20)**

## On-Line Resources

Thanks to Sue for the following links:

### ***Bryn Celli Ddu***

Bryn Celli Ddu project 2015-2020

<https://bryncellidduarchaeology.wordpress.com/the-bryn-celli-ddu-rock-art-project/>

An audio postcard of the sights & sounds of Bryn Celli Ddu in Wales

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08hgfz7>

<https://jonhughesmusic.com/>

### ***Manchester Centre for Public History and Heritage***

Includes another link to Bryn Celli Ddu along with other resources

<https://mcphh.org/>

<https://mcphh.org/bryn-celli-ddu-minecraft-experience/>

### ***Nautical Archaeology Society***

Weekly Webcasts can be found at:

<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/coved-talks-weekly-webcast>

### ***Roman Inscriptions of Britain***

Lots of information drawn from the writings of those who lived, served, and died in Roman Britain.

<https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/>

### ***International Medieval Congress***

Various interactive sessions including a virtual Conference to be held on 6th July. There is a small charge but the first 1500 applicants to book get free entry:

<https://www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2020/programme/>



**From the Editor**

Welcome to the latest MAS Bulletin. In this issue, we continue Maurice’s ‘Archaeology is Everywhere’ series , celebrate the recording of 1.5 million finds on the Portable Antiquities Scheme, enjoy some local ‘virtual’ walks courtesy of CITiZAN, review the recent Twitter conference hosted by the Museum of Liverpool and there are a vast number of interesting new links. I must draw your attention to the ‘Britain from Above’ web-site which contains hours of interesting footage.

Maurice has some information below regarding our Autumn Lecture programme, the forthcoming Conference and our AGM. There is also a possibility that we may be able to organise a local fieldtrip soon. In the meantime I hope you are all keeping active and well.

*Dave Roberts*

**MAS meetings and Covid-19**

At the present time it is not possible for indoor meetings to resume. The reopening of the Quaker Meeting House is uncertain and the Government’s rules require further clarification. Instead, the MAS Council is looking at ways of providing virtual meetings. It is proposed that we hold talks starting in October and Mark would like to hear from anyone who can provide, or suggest, a presentation which can be transmitted using readily available digital technology such as Powerpoint, Zoom or Youtube. He can be contacted via his email address MHAadams@rsk.co.uk Mark will be also be organising a local field trip within the guidelines for outdoor meetings.

In common with many similar societies, MAS has a number of members who are in the 70+ age group and who are likely to be vulnerable to complications if infected with the virus. There are also members who may have underlying health conditions which will make it unwise for them to attend meetings. Other members may live with a relative or friend who may be ‘shielding’ and will have to stay at home.

Every member should be aware that there is a need for social distancing and to wear a face mask in confined spaces where distancing is not possible. The function of the mask is to protect both the wearer and people in their vicinity.

The Government’s advice may have changed by the time you read this. The MAS Council will continue to review the advice and guidance as it changes.

The Archaeology in Merseyside Conference is being re-organised with a provisional date of 9th October 2021. The AGM has been postponed and Council is looking at ways of completing the meeting as well as complying with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

*Maurice Handley*

**Merseyside Archaeological Society**

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*Maurice Handley*

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*Liz Stewart*

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

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

**Contents**

From the Editor.....	1
MAS Meetings & Covid-19.....	1
Archaeology is Everywhere.....	2
CITiZAN Low Tide trails .....	2
PAS reaches 1.5 million finds.....	3
Museum of Liverpool.....	4
Link to On-Line Resources.....	5

## Archaeology is Everywhere

Place names (including field and street names) are everywhere. They can be useful for the historian and archaeologist. For example, in the Merseyside parish of Eccleston, there is Barrow Field Farm and the Tithe Map records a field nearby named 'Barrow Field' that could possibly be the site of a burial mound. Another farm, recently demolished, is called 'Glass House Farm' and was possibly one of the many glass-making sites in St Helens. According to the *Penguin Dictionary of British Place Names* Burscough, near Ormskirk, means 'wood by the fort' and is now known to be near a Roman fort.

Names can change through time. In last month's bulletin Roy Forshaw wrote about Shaw's Brow becoming William Brown Street when the Museum opened in 1857. On nineteenth century maps, Speakman's Lane in Burscough led to the Scutcher's Arms. Scutching is the process of separating flax fibre from the useful part of the plant and at a later stage the lane's name was changed to Flax Lane.

Our society once visited Buxworth, a village on the Peak Forest Canal where the canal basin retained the slightly amusing original name of Bugsworth. Until 1939 Newton le Willows was known as Newton in Makerfield – the name change is curious since there was already a Newton-le-Willows in North Yorkshire.

Place names have often been transcribed erroneously; Mill Lane in Cronton gets its name from a windmill that stood on the top of Pex Hill. On older maps the mill is marked as Peck's Mill – presumably named after the miller. At some stage a mapmaker recorded the homophone and this has spawned a local myth that it was a place of pixies. Fiddler's Ferry (the name given to the power station near Widnes) is derived from a ferry across the Mersey that it is thought gets its name from a Norman baron with the name 'de Vidler' who held the manor thereabouts. The name became 'Fidler's Ferry' with one 'd' and is sometimes spelt that way. There's another Fiddler's Ferry near Crossens just to the north of Southport – a place of entertainment perhaps.

Pronouncing place names can be challenging. Makerfield is pronounced 'Mackerfield' and we probably all know about Gateacre ('Gataker') and Meols ('Mells'). Welsh place names aren't too difficult if you learn the rules but they can occasionally trip the unwary – Acrefair, a village near Telford's aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal, is pronounced 'Ackra vire'.

The 'ough' in Loughborough (the University town) is sounded in two different ways, so the name is pronounced in Leicestershire as 'Luffbra'. Californians struggle with this name, pronouncing it 'Low burrow' or 'Loch borrow' from the Irish 'Lough'. Australians mangle it completely as 'Looga burrooga'. At least Wirral is straightforward even if some of us are not quite sure where it is.

*Maurice Handley*

## Two Low Tide Trails launched online by CITiZAN in Liverpool Bay

Explore the Albert Dock & the central Liverpool waterfront or New Brighton virtually online, or for real on foot!

CITiZAN, the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network, is an award-winning community-led MOLA project (Museum of London Archaeology). They tackle threats to England's fragile coastal archaeology, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and support from Lloyds Register Foundation, Historic England and the National Trust. Following an earlier, national programme, there is currently a second programme focusing on six Discovery Areas in England: Liverpool Bay, Humberside, Mersea Island (near Colchester, Essex), the East Kent coast, Solent Harbours and South Devon Rivers.



The main website can be accessed at: <https://citizan.org.uk/>

### ***CITiZAN Liverpool Bay Discovery Programme at:***

Each of the six Discovery Areas coordinates activities, events and training sessions but all physical activities are currently on hold during lockdown but you can still get involved with the heritage and archaeology of your local coast! The national programme has self-guided Low Tide Trails (walking trails) within each Discovery area: check out the 'Low Tide Trails' tab on their website <https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/about-low-tide-trails/>. These have been made available online now that we are allowed to leave our homes for non-essential travel or outings. Each trail has an annotated map highlighting places to see on your tour, with a clear illustration of each place of interest as well as information about its nature and history. If you live locally and are currently able to get out and about safely you may wish to follow one of these guided routes in reality. But all of us can follow them virtually ie online, either simply because that is what we prefer to do, or as a prelude to going out on site later and physically following the trail when it is more feasible or convenient. There is also a CITiZAN mobile app for Android and Apple which lets you find out about

sites in your vicinity when you are on the coast in one of the areas (such as Liverpool Bay) where they have been actively recording sites, and you can also learn how to record discoveries yourself. See the main website **Resources** tab which will also take you to an interactive map that you can explore from your sofa.

The Liverpool Bay Discovery Area has two self-guided trails: one around Albert Dock and the central waterfront in Liverpool, and one on and around the front at New Brighton. And if this has whetted your appetite, you can check out the Low Tide Trails in the other Discovery Areas as a ‘virtual visitor’ or to plan for a later visit or holiday in person in that area.

***Liverpool Bay: New Brighton. From smuggling haven to coastal resort.***

<https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/liverpool-bay-new-brighton/>

New Brighton developed from a coastal town, with a notorious history of smuggling and deliberate wrecking, into a booming and popular Victorian resort. The town started to develop as a seaside resort in the 1890s, with the construction of the New Brighton tower and ballroom acting as the catalyst for this. The area became a popular resort for people travelling from the industrial towns and cities to get away from the polluted air. New Brighton struggled to compete with resorts such as Blackpool and Southport and tourism started to steadily decline from the 1970s onwards. Although the area has changed significantly, evidence of the area’s coastal past can still be found and there is a variety of archaeological remains in the area.

This Low Tide Trail is rated as Easy Access and is suitable for all abilities.

***Liverpool Bay: Liverpool. Docks, Liverbirds and Beatles***

<https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/liverpool-bay-liverpool-docks/>

Liverpool was once one of the busiest ports in the world, with ships bringing in goods and people from all over the world. The city prospered as a result of coastal and international trade during the 1700s, much of this associated with the slave trade and trade in goods produced by slaves in plantations. This walk will look at Liverpool’s development and look at the clues in the landscape that help archaeologists trace the development of this unique City.

This virtual Low Tide Trail Centered on Albert Dock and waterfront sites was written by Chris Kolonko (CITiZAN North Community Archaeologist).

*Sue Stallibrass*

**PAS reaches 1.5 million finds**

On 9<sup>th</sup> July this year, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) reached the milestone of recording its 1.5 millionth find which took the form of a lead papal bulla from Shropshire (HESH-6359C4). As such, this is an opportune time to look briefly at the archaeology of Merseyside through a PAS perspective.

Since the introduction of the PAS in 1997, 668 finds have been reported from Merseyside. From the five metropolitan boroughs of Merseyside: Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral. Wirral presents the largest volume of finds with 323 recorded to date. The table below presents the number of finds recorded from each broad period and demonstrates the Roman and Post Medieval periods as being the most abundant.

	<i>Knowsley</i>	<i>Liverpool</i>	<i>Sefton</i>	<i>St. Helens</i>	<i>Wirral</i>
Prehistory	3		2	11	23
Iron Age	1		1	1	2
Roman	3	3	28	9	143
Early Medieval			5		1
Medieval	16	12	38	16	67
Post Medieval	14	33	79	43	72
Modern	1		8	6	5
Unknown	2	5	5		10
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>323</b>

*Table 1: Number of finds recorded from each metropolitan borough presented by broad period.*

Although the number of finds reported from Merseyside is relatively small compared to the numbers from neighbouring counties such as Cheshire, Merseyside has still produced a number of insightful chance finds.

**LVPL-CD9D36**

A palstave from Sefton, dating to the middle Bronze Age c.1500-1300 BC. This is one of two palstaves reported from Merseyside (LVPL-F9D407), but the irregular form of this Sefton example is particularly interesting. The uneven septum suggests it may have been a 'practice' piece and was cast by an inexperienced individual still learning the techniques. However, it could possibly simply be a miscast piece.



© National Museums Liverpool

**LVPL-3A24F**

A mostly complete ceramic vessel from the Wirral dating to the Roman period c.AD 43-410. This vessel was found during a beach comb near Leasowe. Vessels are uncommon additions to the PAS database and are rarely found in such a complete condition. The finder kindly donated it to the Museum of Liverpool (MOL.2018.10.1).



© Fred Firth Photography

**LVPL-004154**

A gold half-noble of Henry IV (r. AD 1399-1413) from St. Helens dated to AD 1412-1413. This is an exceptionally rare find and to date is the only gold half-noble of Henry IV identified on the PAS database. In context, there are over 77,000 medieval coins on the database. This coin is of particular interest because it has no annulet next to the trefoil on the side of the ship which suggests it to be a variant type.



© National Museums Liverpool



### LVPL-5D58CD

A ceramic tyg (vessel) from Rainford, St. Helens dated to c.AD 1600-1700. The tyg was a chance discovery from a garden and sparked the founding of a new project, 'Rainford's Roots', a community excavation to explore the Post Medieval pottery and clay pipe manufacturing industries in the area. The project was jointly led by the Museum of Liverpool and Merseyside Archaeological Society. The tyg was donated to the Museum of Liverpool and is part of the museum's collection on Rainford (MOL.2013.127).



It will be interesting to see what the next 1.5 million finds will bring us from Merseyside.

Heather Beeton – Finds Liaison Officer Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside

© National Museums Liverpool

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## Museum of Liverpool

### A Review of the Museum of Liverpool's Second Archaeology Twitter Conference

On Thursday the 16th of July as part of the Council for British Archaeology's digital Festival of Archaeology, the Museum of Liverpool's Twitter account @MuseumLiverpool hosted a Twitter conference. The theme of the conference was climate, environment and archaeology.

The conference began with a welcome from the Museum of Archaeology and a link to the programme and an introduction to the first speaker. The day was divided into three themes. The first theme focused on past climates and evidence for them. The first contributors were Dr Hannah Fluck and Dr Meredith Wiggins of @HistoricEngland speaking about 'Why heritage is essential to addressing the climate crisis' tweeting from the account of Dr Fluck @hannahfluck. This was followed by a Twitter talk from the Museum of Liverpool's Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology, Ron Cowell, who tweeted from the Museum's account. The talk focused on coastal sites in Merseyside and how coastal changes affected groups and settlements during Prehistory. Sticking with the theme of rivers, the next talk was from Dr Courtney Nimura and Professor Rick Schulting from the University of Oxford's School of Archaeology with Professor Fraser Sturt of the University of Southampton with their paper: 'Ebb & Flow: Exploring rivers in later prehistoric Britain' from the account of @FSturt. The talk concluded by highlighting their new project, Ebb & Flow: Exploring rivers in later prehistoric Britain <https://ebbandflow.web.ox.ac.uk>.

The next theme of the conference focused on archaeological preservation and decay. The first talk of this theme was from CITIZAN @CITiZan1 with Andy Shermant and Chris Kolonko of Museum of London Archaeology discussing their fascinating project exploring local coastal archaeology in 'recording archaeology exposed by the shifting sands of climate change'. This was followed with a talk from Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Manchester, Dr Melanie Giles @MelanieCGiles. The paper, 'Crossing the bog: an archaeological journey', was a poetic look at some of the environments created by north west peatlands. A very different look at an archaeological site came next with a look at archaeology as an environment for microbial life with the potential to help the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine's Swab and Send team develop new antibiotics. It was tweeted by Dr Adam Roberts

**Why heritage matters**

- It is affected by climate change
- It can play a role in contextualising climate change
- It can contribute to climate mitigation
- It can play a role in adaptation to new challenges
- It can play a role in communication, engaging and empowering people

The slide includes several images: a landscape with a river and hills (captioned 'Happisburgh, Cromer Forest Bed formation, Photo H. Fluck'), a map of the UK with a 'FLOOD LEVEL' overlay, a book cover titled 'THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE OLD HOMES', a photo of a flooded street, and a photo of a flooded field.

Slide from Dr Hannah Fluck & Dr Meredith Wiggins' talk 'Why heritage is essential to addressing the climate crisis'

@GCAGATGCAATG and focused on the swabs taken from the Oakes Street excavation as part of the Galkoffs and the Secret Life of Pembroke Place project.

The final theme of the day, museums and climate change, began with a speaker from National Museums Ireland, Siobhan Pierce @PierceSiobhan. The talk 'If things could talk about Sustainability!' focused on some fabulous work to engage teenagers in skills of curatorship. This was followed by the final talk of the day from the youth panel of Kids in Museums @kidsinmuseums. 'How can museums use their archaeological collections to help us learn about the impact of climate change?' focused on their project Objects Declare Emergency, a virtual collection of objects on Instagram which all contribute to the story of the climate crisis.

Questions and discussion followed before closing remarks and thanks from the Museum of Liverpool. To catch up on the conference and read through the papers visit Twitter and search for the hashtag #ArchMoL20. Tweets can be read with or without having a Twitter account. #ArchMoL20 was a fascinating conference with a wide range of papers and speakers which highlighted the varied and important relationship between archaeology, climate and the environment.

*Vanessa Oakden*

## **On-Line Resources**

### **Historic England**

Historic England's Aerial Survey department has a searchable online archive called **Britain from Above**. There are 82,000 photos from England, 6,000 from Scotland and 4,000 from Wales (plus some from other countries).

<https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en>

### **Lead production in the Roman Peak District**

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/white-peak-dark-landscape-ongoing-study-impact-lead-production-had-formation-militarised-and>

### **Heritage and the Planning system**

<https://medium.com/@paulbelford/removing-archaeology-and-heritage-protection-from-the-planning-system-will-make-society-poorer-ff7359a9cf39>

### **Children – mixture of education and just for fun links**

### **BBC – Tiny Happy People – simple activities and play ideas for pre-schoolers**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

### **CBA Festival of Archaeology**

Be part of the Great British Archaeology Comic Book - submissions deadline 6 September 2020

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/blog/be-part-great-british-archaeology-comic-book-1595154384>

### **Layers of London – My Family History, summer project**

<https://www.layersoflondon.org/volunteering/my-family-history>

### **Archaeology/Architecture/History**

### **ALGAO**

Impact of Covid-19 on Local Authority Archaeology services – report

<https://www.algao.org.uk/news/impact-covid-19-local-authority-archaeology-services#>

**Home Front Legacy – project archive (ADS)**

[https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/hfl\\_he\\_2020/](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/hfl_he_2020/)

**Bristol Historical Databases Project**

<https://bristoldatabases.wordpress.com/datasets/>

**The Rose Playhouse, Southwark – ‘virtual’ tour**

<https://vimeo.com/331090925>

**Museum of London**

Uptown talks – series of short talks on areas of London

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcUgvdvJPCkCUX6-bQgsXwa4-JarW25vA&app=desktop>

**Recordings of the CBA Festival of Archaeology 2020 presentations**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0jz2K7enTbQ8KrADI4D4TGURQYmZYw6R>

*Sue Stallibrass*



**From the Editor**

Welcome to the August Newsletter. In these unprecedented times the Council is working hard to keep things moving and restart events.

We are pleased to announce that restrictions have currently relaxed sufficiently to enable the Society to run a local field trip to Bidston Hill in September. On 8th October, Sue is inviting members to join her for an informal walk around Calderstones Park. Details are below.

We have also put plans in place for the Autumn season of lectures and our postponed AGM using Zoom technology. Further information can be found on page 2. These details will be firmed up at the end of September in the next Bulletin.

We recognise that members may have things they would like to see happen which we haven't considered and we would welcome suggestions for future activities.

*Dave Roberts*

**Fieldtrip News**

Although restrictions have gradually eased since full lockdown, there are still limits in place on group sizes, travelling etc and it's likely that many members of MAS will still be nervous about travelling and meeting others. However, I feel that it is possible to test the waters with a limited trip, so I will be leading a walk around the Bidston Hill Heritage Trail on Sunday 20 September. <http://www.bidstonhill.org.uk/heritage/>

I realise that this is significantly less ambitious than past fieldtrips, but believe that it's important to see if things can operate safely in the current circumstances; hopefully we'll be able to be more ambitious next year. In addition, despite having lived on Merseyside for 32 of the past 38 years, I'd not been up there until I dragged the kids round on a quick recce a couple of weeks ago (hopefully MAS members will complain less than they did!). Highlights for me included Bidston Windmill and a range of rock art of various dates.

In these interesting times we will have to operate differently, so please adhere to the following.

- 1) The trip may be cancelled at short notice if there is a change to Government advice, I will attempt to contact anyone who has booked, but please keep an eye on the news and act accordingly.
- 2) **Booking is essential** for this trip. Please contact Mark Adams by email to [mhadams@rsk.co.uk](mailto:mhadams@rsk.co.uk) or by phone to 07469144227.
- 3) At present I am working to guidelines issued by the Ramblers: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer-zone/coronavirus.aspx> which limit groups to 30, though I will probably split us into two or more sub-groups if

**Merseyside Archaeological Society**

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

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

**Contents**

From the Editor.....1  
 Fieldtrip News.....1  
 Autumn Meetings 2020.....2  
 MAS Walk in Calderstones Park.....3  
 Archaeology is Everywhere.....4  
 Talks at The Atkinson.....5  
 A New Discovery at Formby.....5  
 Self-guided Walks.....5  
 More Useful Links.....6

more than 5-6 attend. Again, please note that these guidelines may change at short notice.

- 4) **If you have any Covid-19 symptoms DO NOT ATTEND.**
- 5) Please bring your own alcohol based hand-sanitiser, face-covering and first-aid kit.
- 6) You will be asked to provide details of your address for Track & Trace
- 7) Plan in advance how you will get to the meeting point, avoiding public transport, shared cars etc where possible.
- 8) 2 m safe distancing will be adhered to throughout the trip.
- 9) Do not share food, drink or equipment such as walking poles.
- 10) Avoid, where possible, touching gates etc.
- 11) I will not be supplying hard copies of handouts relating to the trip. The link to Bidston Hill's website supplies details of the route, historical background etc and it is suggested that you either bring your own copies, or download them to a smart phone. Alternatively I found that the phone signal (O2) is good on the hill and it is possible to view webpages on site using a smartphone. However, that may be different for other services and you will need sufficient data and battery life available.
- 12) Please make sure that the walk is well within your physical abilities. The walk will be 1 ½ to 2 miles with short sections of up-hill and down-hill. Paths are generally good, though there are some uneven sections. Remember, some of us may not be as fit as we were pre-lockdown. I estimate that it will take about 2 hours.
- 13) If you develop symptoms after the walk, apply for a Covid-19 test and contact NHS Contact Tracing and Mark Adams as required.

Subject to all of that, we will be meeting at the car-park for Tam O'Shanter's Cottage, which is accessed from Boundary Road, at 1.30 PM Sunday 20 September.

*Mark Adams*

### **Autumn Meetings 2020**

Covid-19 continues to impact our programme, the Quaker Meeting House remains closed at time of writing and it is difficult to foresee when we'll be able to meet in person. Current guidelines suggest that even if the Meeting House reopens we will be severely restricted in the numbers we will be allowed to admit. It is also likely that many members will be wary of attending meetings.

In consequence it has been decided to trial meetings held online via the Zoom app. We realise that this may not be accessible for some members, and apologise in advance for the inconvenience, but for the time being this seems to be the only way we can keep some sort of programme going. Things will hopefully have improved by the New Year, but at the moment it is not possible to give a date for the restart of indoor meetings.

For the present we've arranged dates up to December to allow everyone to see how this works and to allow us all to get used to it. Talks will be relatively restricted in length at 20-25 mins with 10 mins for questions.

Details are yet to be finalised, but it is proposed to supplement the shorter talks with a series of short field trips to locally accessible sites and museums as the weather improves in the spring. To trial this there will be a short visit to Bidston Hill in September which replaces September's talk (see above).

There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Zoom sessions will last 40 mins; please make sure you log on promptly.
2. Please set your microphone to mute whilst the speaker is talking. This is to ensure that we get the best audio quality so that everyone can hear.
3. Just as we would in a physical meeting, please save any questions until the end of the session.
4. It's possible to post text comments during Zoom meetings, but we found this quite distracting during the trial run, so please keep this to a minimum.
5. It is possible to record Zoom meetings, so if for some reason you are unable to attend it may be possible to catch-up later,

details will be given in October's newsletter.

6. If you'd rather not appear by video that can be turned off and replaced with a photo.
7. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to members in the week prior to the meeting, so please make sure that our membership sec, Vanessa Oakden, has your current email address.

There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>

Hopefully this will work, though we are expecting the usual technical glitches on the first couple of sessions so please be patient with us. We're trialling it with talks by members whilst we find out how it works, but if it's successful we will be inviting our usual diverse range of speakers and (almost) normal service will resume.

### **Programme**

**Sunday 20 September 1.30 PM** Mark Adams *Evening meeting to be replaced by the Bidston Hill fieldtrip.*

**Thursday 15 October 7.30PM** Maurice Handley *'Merseyside's Industrial Heritage - a short illustrated guide'.*

Maurice will give a short introduction to the industrial archaeology of Merseyside based upon the latest MIHS publication, "A Guide to the Industrial Heritage of Merseyside".

**Thursday 19 November 7.30PM** Mark Adams *'Capstans, Winches and Walls- Industrial Archaeology at Princes Dock'.*

Keeping up the industrial theme this talk will cover a (currently) ongoing watching brief at Princes Half-Tide Dock.

**Thursday 17 December 7.30PM** Maurice Handley *AGM & Christmas Quiz*

Those without access to the internet will be able to submit a postal vote. This will be followed by Maurice's now traditional Christmas Quiz, though you will unfortunately have to supply your own mince pies and refreshments.

Further details will appear in October's newsletter.

*Mark Adams*

### **MAS Social Walk to Calderstones Park, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 11.30 – 13.00 hrs**



The Calderstones: the remains of a megalithic tomb with carved rock art that is now on display close to its original location, next to the Mansion House in Calderstones Park.

There is a small, informative exhibition associated with the monument, and both can be visited.

MAS published a popular booklet on the Calderstones that is available:

<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/the-calderstones.html>

Would you like to use your COVID-permitted fresh air & exercise time in the company of a very small number of other people who are also interested in local archaeology and the historic environment? The aim of a social walk is to get some fresh air in an interesting place, with a few like-minded people (no more than 6 people in a group, meeting out of doors).

Sue Stallibrass ([Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk)) will be going for a walk in Calderstones Park on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup> and if you would like to join her, please rendezvous on the steps of the Mansion House at 11.30am (there is a porch for shelter if necessary, but I am hoping for some lovely autumnal colours on the park's trees!). The park has lots of walks, it also has the Calderstones

themselves, and it has a café. There is free parking and bus numbers 75 and 86C pass by (Menlove Avenue bus-stop) For information about how to get there, facilities and history of the Reader and Calderstones Park see: <https://www.thereader.org.uk/visit-calderstones/>

This is not a 'led walk' but a mutual explore of the area. The timing (mid-week, late morning) is to avoid busy travel times whether by car or public transport.

At the rendezvous you will be asked to provide Sue with your name and phone contact details, to comply with government track and trace systems. Social distancing will be required, in accordance with whatever the current government advice is at the time of the walk. If more than six people turn up at the rendezvous, we can easily split into two smaller parties: it is quite a large park. If you know in advance that you would like to come along, and would like to have Sue's phone number in advance of the walk, please contact her via her email.

## Archaeology is Everywhere

Archaeology is not quite everywhere. The impact of Covid-19 has hampered local societies like ours and many are unable to hold meetings or carry out activities such as archaeological excavations. Typically these societies have members in the older age group who might not be able to attend meetings and younger members who lead busy lives and also can't come to meetings. One solution to these problems is to have virtual meetings. MAS Council has already met using ZOOM and we are working on using video-conferencing for talks and the AGM in the next few months.

In the previous Bulletin we had a surfeit of recommended web sites to visit. I particularly enjoyed the virtual walks on the CITIZAN site. I learnt a lot from the online visit to the Liverpool's historic docks and can't wait to get on my bike and tour the area once I feel safe. The site describes the docks built by Jesse Hartley as having 'Cyclopean' masonry. The term refers to the randomly shaped stone blocks found in the walls of Mycenae and the belief that the Cyclopes possessed the strength to move them.

Liverpool has over three thousand listed buildings, many of them in the central commercial area and around the historic docks. One of my favourites is Oriel Chambers which was built in 1864. It is an early example of the use of cast



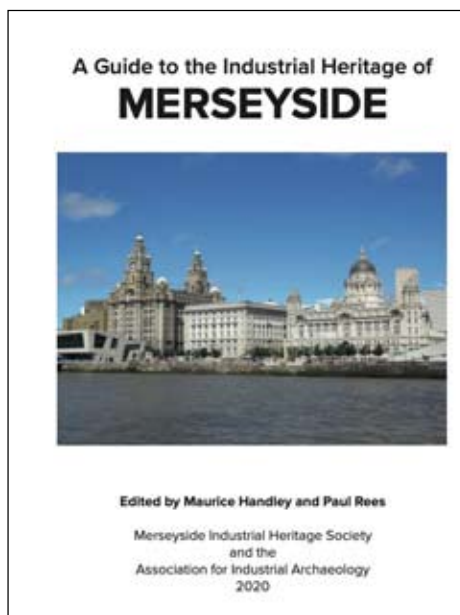
*Oriel Chambers*

iron framework construction. The architect Peter Ellis also built a similar structure on Cook Street. Most of the 19th century warehouses also have cast iron incorporated in their structure for fire resistance reasons. Just wandering round the city centre you realise the great variety of buildings and structures there are. Beneath these there will be evidence of earlier structures such as docks, warehouses, potteries, foundries, railways and civil war defences.

I've spent the last couple of years researching the industrial heritage of Liverpool and some of the other parts of Merseyside, for a guide that was intended for the Association of Industrial Archaeology's 2020 conference but that is now postponed until next year. The following advert (not written by me) gives further details.

### *A Guide to the Industrial Heritage of Merseyside*

'Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society has published *A Guide to the Industrial Heritage of Merseyside* which is available to MAS members at a discounted price. The new Guide contains 132 pages and details more than 330 sites across the boroughs of Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral, each with map references and listing status. There are more than 140 illustrations, almost all of them new colour images never published before. A key feature is the inclusion of 12 specially commissioned maps, showing the location of the important sites. The guide contains comprehensive overviews of the industrial development of both the region and the



*Guide Cover*

individual boroughs. As an introductory offer the new guide is available at the discounted price of £7.00, plus £2.00 P&P. To secure a copy send a cheque to the MIHS Treasurer at 14, Ardern Lea, Alvanley, Frodsham, WA6 9EQ or contact her at [renie11@yahoo.com](mailto:renie11@yahoo.com) for details of how to pay. ‘

*Maurice Handley*

### Talks at The Atkinson

The Atkinson in Southport is running a weekly series of eight online local history talks by Dr Tom Preston called ‘Southport snapshots’. The first, taster, session on Monday 14th Sept is free, all subsequent sessions are £3 plus a booking fee of £1 per ticket (ie £4). They will be held via ZOOM at 10.30 - 11.15am every Monday from 14th Sept until Monday 2nd Nov.

Southport Snapshots, the series of popular local history sessions continues, this time, via online workshops using the free video communications platform Zoom. We will be looking at aspects of Southport’s history, including fishermen’s cottages, Little Ireland, Vulcan Cars, and Hesketh Park Aerodrome, amongst others.

To take part in the Zoom meeting you will need access to a computer, laptop or tablet, an email address and an internet connection. The first session on Monday 14 September is free but booking is essential for each session (including the free taster session- you need to book in order to receive the Zoom link).

Further information and booking details (you can book by phone or online) via

<https://www.theatkinson.co.uk/events/southport-snapshots-2020-09-21/>

Please note: Dr Tom Preston is delivering Southport Snapshots online, direct to participants on behalf of The Atkinson. Participant email address will be shared securely with Dr Tom Preston for him to facilitate the Zoom meeting.

*Sue Stallibrass*

### New Discovery at Formby

To find out about a wonderful discovery by Dr Ardern Hulme-Beaman please please follow the link to learn about the discovery of an ancient hearth hidden in the sands of Formby Beach alongside millennia-old footprints. You will be able to explore the find directly through SketchFab models as well!

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/archaeology-classics-and-egyptology/blog/2020/formby-hearth/>

*Sue Stallibrass*

### Self-guided walks

If you want to get some fresh air out and about in the local historic environment, either on your own or with members of your own household, here are some links to some self-guided walks in Merseyside.

Here are some coastal walks that you can try:

**Parkgate Heritage Trail** <http://www.parkgateheritagetrail.org/home/locations/>

**CITiZAN Liverpool Bay Discovery Programme** has two coastal walks at:

<https://citizan.org.uk/discovery-programmes/liverpool-bay/>

1) **New Brighton:** From smuggling haven to coastal resort

2) **Liverpool: Docks, Liverbirds and Beatles:** Albert Dock and waterfront sites. These all look at built heritage and structures, and all are in areas where you can find refreshments etc

For another coastal walk but in a more open environment, you can look for the remains of World War II defences in the dunes at Crosby, using Alison Burns’ booklet on **Forgotten Fort Crosby: Dune Heritage Revealed** which can be downloaded from her Academia website at [https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten\\_Fort\\_Crosby\\_Dune\\_Heritage\\_Revealed](https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten_Fort_Crosby_Dune_Heritage_Revealed)

If you know of other self-guided walks that you think MAS members might enjoy, please send the links or short reviews of them to the MAS newsletter editor for inclusion in future issues.

*Sue Stallibrass*



## More useful links

**CITiZAN** – 2020 blog posts

<https://citizan.org.uk/blog/2020/>

**CITiZAN** – videos of two coastal related activities

<https://citizan.org.uk/blog/2020/Aug/12/crafting-citizan-world-youth-day/>

**Shared Research Repository** – includes: MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), Tate, National Museums Scotland, British Museum, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew & British Library

<https://iro.bl.uk/>

**Queens University Belfast** – Ciphers, codes and notes: crafting knowledge in the Medieval and modern worlds – online exhibition

<https://sway.office.com/WDT3WAaPQ0JjDdCf>

**British Library** – Medieval manuscripts blog – Digitisation of the Sherborne Missal

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2020/08/digitisation-of-the-sherborne-missal.html>

**Anglo-Saxon Laboratory** – Pangur Press – open access publications

<http://www.aslab.co.uk/pangur-press/>

**Open Data Institute** – Data toolkit for business: help to manage, publish and use data

<https://theodi.org/service/tools-resources/data-toolkit-for-business/>

**About Manchester** – ‘Health holidays’: forgotten tales of poorly Manchester children who were sent to Switzerland revealed in new documentary

<https://aboutmanchester.co.uk/health-holidays-forgotten-tales-of-poorly-manchester-children-who-were-sent-to-switzerland-revealed-in-new-documentary/>

## Dates for your diaries

**The Victorian Society** – The pub unwrapped and the golden age of Pub building – Wednesday 09 September 2020, 19:00

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/lb653h92/register>

**Heritage Open Days – Discovery Stage** – online offerings for the festival – 11-20 September 2020

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/festival-stages/discovery-stage>

*Sue Stallibrass*



## **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**7.30 pm Thursday 17th December 2020**

Owing to the Covid-19 situation the AGM on 23rd April 2020 was cancelled and it is proposed to hold a 'virtual' meeting using Zoom on Thursday 17th December at 7.30 pm. MAS Council will be meeting in October to act according to guidance from the Charity Commissioners about the conduct of the meeting and the voting procedure. In particular we are considering the arrangements for those who are unable to attend via Zoom. The agenda and associated documents for the AGM will be sent out in due course.

### **'Guest' Editorial**

The Newsletter may have an unfamiliar look this month because our esteemed editor, Dave Roberts, is on holiday and yours truly has filled the breach. I don't have the skills to produce a newsletter to Dave's high standard but I hope this meagre effort is acceptable. Although the Covid situation is changing unpredictably, the Society is soldiering on with a walk and some planned Zoom meetings detailed below. For details of the officers of the Council and contacts please look at a previous Newsletter. Thanks also to Vanessa, Sue and Mark for their contributions.

### **Events**

Talks will be via Zoom and details of the link will be emailed to members before each meeting.

**Thursday 8th October 11.30 am** Sue Stallibrass *A social walk in Calderstones Park*

For details of the arrangements and to book a place, please contact Sue at [sue.Stallibrass@Liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:sue.Stallibrass@Liverpool.ac.uk)

**Thursday 15 October 7.30pm** Maurice Handley *'Merseyside's Industrial Heritage - a short illustrated guide'*.

Maurice will give a short introduction to the industrial archaeology of Merseyside based upon the latest MIHS publication, "*A Guide to the Industrial Heritage of Merseyside*". This is an experimental presentation to familiarise members with Zoom.

**Thursday 19 November 7.30pm** Mark Adams *'Capstans, Winches and Walls - Industrial Archaeology at Princes Dock'*.

Keeping up the industrial theme this talk will cover a (currently) ongoing watching brief at Princes Half-Tide Dock. See also Mark's article in this Newsletter.

**Thursday 17 December 7.30pm** Maurice Handley *AGM & Quiz*

The AGM will be followed by a non-competitive multi-choice quiz, though you will unfortunately have to supply your own mince pies and refreshments.

## **Margaret Cragg (1938 - 2020)**

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Margaret Cragg passed away suddenly in the summer. Margaret was a valued member of MAS for a number of years and will be missed by many. She regularly attended meetings and field trips with her friend Neville King.

Margaret worked as a Mechanical Engineer for Liverpool Corporation and North West Water. She was a member of various family history groups. Her interest in the archaeology of Merseyside and further afield was visible in her extensive collection of books, some of which were kindly donated to the Society by her niece Laura. These will be kept until such a time as we can safely meet and will be available for members to take. Tributes to Margaret can be read beneath her funeral notice which took place on 1st of July here <https://funeral-notices.co.uk/notice/cragg/4855742>. If you would like to pay tribute to Margaret in our next newsletter do please get in touch.

*Vanessa Oakden*

## **Bidston Fieldtrip - led by Mark Adams**

A small group of MAS members dodged the crowds for the field trip to Bidston Hill which took place on a bright and sunny Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September and the views of Liverpool and beyond were worth it in their own right (sorry, I was too busy picking out landmarks to take photographs). One of the things that struck us was how easy it was to confuse Wallasey Float with the Mersey; and was that the Lake District, the Howgills or the Sefton Coast that could be seen far to the north? The views gave a real sense of why the hill was such an important navigation marker for shipping in the days before GPS/SatNav.

We followed the Heritage Trail available on the Friends of Bidston Hill website which also gives a summary historical background to each of the sites on the trail which also has marker posts to show the way <http://www.bidstonhill.org.uk/heritage/map/>. The trail is easy to follow, so those who missed Sunday will be able to follow it easily on their own.

Tam O'Shanter's Farm is worth a visit, but was very busy on Sunday, so we hit the trail. A pity as it would have been good to view the work being done by the Bidston Community Archaeology group <https://sites.google.com/view/bidstoncommarchaeology> see also the January 2012 newsletter [https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/uploads/2/7/2/9/2729758/newsletter\\_jan\\_2012.pdf](https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/uploads/2/7/2/9/2729758/newsletter_jan_2012.pdf)

All of the locations are interesting, though the windmill site, horse carving and sun goddess sites were highlights for me. At the windmill site there's not just the early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick tower mill to see but numerous cuts into the bedrock, at least two of which pre-date the tower mill. We couldn't decide what they were, but they're parts of circles, so perhaps earlier mills or something else (see below)? Just to the north are the foundations of the post mill which blew down in the 1790s. There's a lot to make sense of there, but that's difficult to do from ground level. At work I've been using a pole mounted Gopro camera and a process called photogrammetry to produce plan views of similar sites, so I plan to return and do something similar here; watch out in future newsletters. For those wanting to know more about the mills I can recommend Rowan Patel's book on Wirral mills [https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/The\\_Windmills\\_and\\_Watermills\\_of\\_Wirral.html?id=-3MwjwEACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/The_Windmills_and_Watermills_of_Wirral.html?id=-3MwjwEACAAJ&redir_esc=y)

The horse's head carving is easy to find but much harder to date; and who are/were the experts from Museum of Liverpool attempting to date it? It wasn't me, and anyway I won't claim to be an expert in rock art..... though stylistically it doesn't look Iron Age so that perhaps rules that out.

Bidston Observatory has a link with my current project on Princes Half-Tide Dock in that the observatory was sited close to where I'm working and moved to Bidston when the dock was remodelled in the 1860s. It's an impressive bit of Victorian masonry, as is the adjacent lighthouse.

The views of Bidston Hall aren't great from the trail, but the site has an interesting history and it's worth pausing for a look at the back of the house.

Close to the Cockpit is a capped shaft where persons unknown have created an unofficial entrance. This caps a ventilation shaft for the network of tunnels under Bidston Hill which were used as air-raid shelters in WWII. Unfortunately access is too dangerous for a future fieldtrip; and I doubt I'd fit through the gap anyway, but there's an interesting virtual tour here

<https://www.28dayslater.co.uk/threads/bidston-hill-deep-shelter-march-2012.69843/>

poorer photos here

<https://www.28dayslater.co.uk/threads/bidston-underground-war-tunnels-wirral.119467/>

and historical background here

<https://www.subbrit.org.uk/sites/bidston-hill/>.

Google would doubtless turn up more.

The cockpit itself is a circular cut into the bedrock, easily spotted from the path. I've not done the research, but the evidence for it being an actual cockpit seems slim. What was it? Another windmill? Perhaps, but at 8 metres in diameter it is the same size as a lot of roundhouses and the gully is the same width and depth as a roundhouse excavated at Irby in the 1990s. That could of course be a total coincidence, and in the absence of other evidence I wouldn't want to make a serious claim that the site is Iron Age, but it's worth considering.

Moving on we headed towards the Sun Goddess, pausing to examine a site not marked on the heritage trail. It's a trackway marked by parallel grooves cut into the exposed rock (At last! A photo!). The site's listed on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record, but in the wrong place, though its date is uncertain. It's probably 18-19<sup>th</sup> century, but could be earlier and it may relate to the transport of stone from one of the many small stone workings which dot the hill, the grooves being intended to increase traction for horses and wagons.

The Sun Goddess herself is slightly harder to find, but worth the effort. A description is given on the heritage trail website and I'll leave you to make your own conclusions, but to me it looked stylistically similar to the 10<sup>th</sup> century



grave slab excavated from Mark Rake, Bromborough 3-4 years ago <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/stories/astonishing-anglo-saxon-artefact> . Sadly we couldn't find the Moon Goddess.

The last site we visited was the Mummers' Carvings. I couldn't find these on the recce I did with the kids a couple of months ago, and it took a bit of effort this time around. However, the marker post is actually a better guide than it first seems. My top tip is to not look at your feet, look ahead and stare long enough. Hopefully you'll then spot a snake hiding in the moss, other carvings then appear in the gloom.

Bidston Hill's well worth the effort of making a visit and the Heritage Trail is very good. In these changed times it's well worth visiting, don't leave it 38 years as I did. The hill clearly has a lot of untapped archaeological potential.

### **Princes Half-Tide Dock**

Archaeologists from Headland Archaeology have been conducting a watching brief during Sisk's groundworks ahead of construction of a new ferry terminal at Princes Half-Tide Dock for the Isle of Man Government.

Princes Half-Tide Dock is part of the Liverpool Mercantile City World Heritage Site and is a significant part of the city's industrial heritage. During the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries Liverpool's dock engineers were at the forefront of the development of dock technology, and the watching brief has recorded a range of above and below ground structures which has given Headland's archaeologists better understanding of how the dock was constructed and used.

The history of the dock began when John Foster Senior constructed Princes Dock which opened in 1821; the ferry terminal site lies on the western side of an entrance basin which lay at the northern end of the dock. As ships became bigger Princes Dock became obsolete and in the 1830s Jesse Hartley built Waterloo Dock to the north of the entrance basin.

The entrance basin was modified again in the late 1860s when Hartley's successor, G.F. Lyster, added two islands to its entrance, creating three new entrance locks. Single gates to north and south enabled its use as a half-tide dock by larger vessels, whilst in the middle was a lock which allowed smaller ships to enter or leave at any state of the tide. In the late 1930s the dock was modified further, Lyster's lock-gates were blocked and a new entrance lock, which opened in 1949, was built giving access to Waterloo Dock and Princes Dock. The new terminal building lies on top of Lyster's islands and incorporates the 1949 entrance lock.



*Figure 1. The evolution of Princes Dock. The map on the left shows the site's original 1821 layout with the extension north to Waterloo Dock. In the middle is the layout after the lock-gates were*

*added in the 1860s and on the right following the 1949 alterations; the 'tails' of the islands are on the right of the entrance.*

So far excavation has been concentrated on the islands constructed by Lyster in the 1860s. This has shown they were built using a network of cross-walls which were used to strengthen the outer walls of the islands and the quayside at their top. Set within these cross-walls were vertical shafts which connect to culverts buried deep within the islands. The shafts held gates which controlled the flow of water in the culverts which was used to adjust the water level inside the locks and to flush away any silt which accumulated around them.



*Figure 2. Overhead view of the excavation of Lyster's south lock-gate island showing the cross-walls and square shafts connected to the sluices. Two sets of gates were found in the infilled central lock, those on the left are closed, those on the right open. The image on the right has the 1860s works shaded orange, the 1949 works are shaded blue. The lock-gates are shaded brown.*



*Figure 3. Excavation of the north island showing the cross-walls. The circle on the left is a well.*

Careful hand-digging has exposed a number of interesting features relating to the locks. These include the wooden lock-gates which were made using greenheart, a tropical hardwood used throughout Liverpool's docks from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century because of its strength and resistance to rot. Other features include the depth gauges carved into the masonry of the lock-gates which showed the depth of water in the lock.



*Figure 4. A Headland archaeologist cleaning one of the wooden lock-gates exposed after careful machine excavation and a lock-gate after cleaning.*



*Figure 5. Depth gauge carved into the entrance lock wall and indicating a depth of 32 feet to the base of the lock.*

The watching brief has also required Headland's archaeologists to excavate and record several items of dock equipment such as capstans used to help manoeuvre ships, and large winches used to open and close the lock gates. Most of these had been filled with brick rubble when the dock was closed in the 1980s and this could only be removed by hand-digging.



*Figure 6. Excavating rubble from a winch used to open lock-gates and a capstan and its hydraulic motors after hand-digging.*

Many of these were installed when Lyster remodelled the dock in the 1860s and would probably have continued working until the 1970s or 80s. They were powered by a water-based hydraulic system supplied by a network of pipes which lay under the dock's granite paving.

The best preserved pieces of machinery have been carefully moved and will be reinstalled in a Heritage Area incorporated into the terminal site.

Headland would like to acknowledge funding of the project by the Isle of Man Government. The assistance of the staff of John Sisk & Son, in particular David Rutherford, Tim Newton and Aaron Fraser, and of Ian Barnes of the Waterman Group is also gratefully acknowledged.

*Mark Adams*

### **Archaeology is Everywhere**

During the 'lockdown summer', I reached forty for the second time. Twenty-five per cent of my life has been spent living in Merseyside and I have made many friends here including quite a few amongst members of MAS. Covid-19 has limited the social side of our society and we miss the chance for a chat over coffee and the trip to the pub for a pint after meetings. Field trips in particular provide an opportunity to get to know people. My birthday celebrations were very subdued although I had a lot of cards. One from an MAS friend I thought was very appropriate with a nice link to dendrochronology - archaeology is even on birthday cards.



Sue Stallibrass has suggested a number of useful online resources in previous newsletters and I'm indebted to Sue for bringing attention to the TV series 'Britain's Biggest Dig' on BBC2 and iPlayer. Presented by anthropologist Professor Alice Roberts and historian Dr Yasmin Khan, it's about some of the extensive archaeological investigations being carried out ahead of the construction of the HS2 high-speed railway line between London and Birmingham. The first episode dealt with the excavation of a Georgian burial ground at the proposed HS2 terminus at Euston. There were thousands of burials at this compact site and viewers are treated to a surfeit of skeletons. Many of the coffins with their nameplates survived in the damp clay, making it possible to identify some of the bodies. The burials took place at a time when there was a shortage of bodies for medical training and there were gangs who would uncover a coffin and steal recently buried cadavers. To prevent the body from being pulled through a hole made in the coffin lid, the body would be held down by a metal 'coffin collar' that passed over the neck and was fixed to the base of the coffin.

The second episode, digs deeper through the excavations at the Euston burial ground and finds the remains of Captain Matthew Flinders R.N. who explored and mapped the coast of Australia. The presenters then move on to another large burial ground in the centre of Birmingham. They explore the lives of the poor occupants of court housing and workhouses. The final episode reveals how working-class Victorians made Birmingham one of the most important industrial cities on the planet. The discoveries range from why several mysterious skeletons have strange cut marks on them to the rise of the real Peaky Blinders. We were told that there's an archaeological site for every mile of HS2 but this series only deals with the two largest. Catch them on iPlayer or online at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mmrf>

*Maurice Handley ('Guest' Editor)*





### From the Editor

Welcome to the October Newsletter. Thanks to Maurice for producing the excellent September issue. We are living under difficult times but the Council continues to keep the Society functioning to the best of its ability.

Although we have no features in this issue, the Bulletin contains important information which we hope will be of interest to members. We are now planning our AGM which will take place 'virtually' on Thursday 17th December. We hope as many members as possible will attend. Below, there is a list of nominations for 2021 which we have received from the Council. Further nominations are invited. On Thursday 19th November we have our second lecture of the year via 'Zoom'. The first lecture was a great success so we are looking forward to a good turnout.

The Council are meeting again on 11th November when it will finalise the arrangements for the AGM. The AGM papers will be issued to everyone at the end of the month. We will also discuss some new ideas that we have for the Newsletter. If anyone wishes to contribute an article, perhaps an item on private research or a short report on a site of interest that you have discovered, which you would like to be included in a future issue then please get in touch.

### Nominations for 2020-21 received from MAS Council

#### *MAS Council 2020-21: Current nominations Officers:*

Hon. Chair: Roy Forshaw

Hon. Secretary: Liz Stewart

Hon. Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Dave Roberts

#### *Council Members:*

Mark Adams (Events Organiser), Ben Croxford, Maurice Handley (Past Chair), Vanessa Oakden (Membership Secretary), Rob Philpott, Samantha Rowe, David Scott, Sue Stallibrass

If there are any further nominations for Council please forward them, with the name of a proposer and seconder, to Vanessa Oakden via e-mail (address aside) or post to: 24 Rushton Avenue, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside WA12 0EN. Nominations should be received by 19th November.

### Margaret Cragg

Warren and John Kern were very sorry to hear the surprise news and would like to convey their condolences to Neville King. Margaret & Neville regularly attended both MAS & Liverpool History Society meetings. They were very approachable and knowledgeable and good conversationalists. **RIP MARGARET.**

*John Kern*

### *Merseyside Archaeological Society*

*Hon Chair:*

*Maurice Handley*

*Hon Secretary:*

*Liz Stewart*

*Membership Secretary:*

*Vanessa Oakden*

*e-mail:*

*Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk*

*Hon Treasurer & Newsletter Editor:*

*Dave Roberts*

*e-mail: [drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk)*

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

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

### Contents

From the Editor.....	1
Nominations for Council.....	1
A Tribute to Margaret Cragg.....	1
Autumn Meetings 2020.....	2
Archaeology is Everywhere.....	2
Museum of Liverpool.....	3
On-Line Resources.....	3

## Autumn Meetings 2020

Meetings will be held ‘virtually’ via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand.

### Programme

**Thursday 19 November 7.30PM** Mark Adams ‘*Capstans, Winches and Walls- Industrial Archaeology at Princes Dock*’.

Keeping up the industrial theme this talk will cover a (currently) ongoing watching brief at Princes Half-Tide Dock.

**Thursday 17 December 7.30PM** Maurice Handley *AGM & Christmas Quiz*

Those without access to the internet will be able to submit a postal vote. This will be followed by Maurice’s now traditional Christmas Quiz, though you will unfortunately have to supply your own mince pies and refreshments.

There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Zoom sessions will last 40 mins; please make sure you log on promptly.
2. Please set your microphone to mute whilst the speaker is talking. This is to ensure that we get the best audio quality so that everyone can hear.
3. Just as we would in a physical meeting, please save any questions until the end of the session.
4. It’s possible to post text comments during Zoom meetings, but we found this quite distracting, so please keep this to a minimum.
5. If you’d rather not appear by video that can be turned off and replaced with a photo.
6. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to members in the week prior to the meeting, so please make sure that our membership sec, Vanessa Oakden, has your current email address.

There’s a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>

Hopefully this will work, though we are expecting the usual technical glitches on the first couple of sessions so please be patient with us. We’re trialling it with talks by members whilst we find out how it works, but if it’s successful we will be inviting our usual diverse range of speakers and (almost) normal service will resume.

## Archaeology is Everywhere

It was good to see so many faces at our first Zoom lecture on October 15th and no need for social distancing. It will take a while for members to get used to using the technology and there’s bound to be a glitch now and then. It was heartening to see people using Zoom for the first time and doing so well. During the talk, I mentioned the proposals for Bramley Moore Dock and Pumphouse to be redeveloped as a soccer stadium. You can read more about the Bramley Moore Dock on the Historic England website:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/everton-fc-new-stadium/>

Also, a question was asked about ‘Manillas’ and I confess that I mistakenly thought they were worn around the neck. They are copper bracelets which acted as a form of currency in West Africa and were used to buy slaves during the slave trade era.

In February 2019 Steve Baldwin gave a talk ‘*The Fort in the Wood - Lancashire’s Lost Roman Fort*’ about the Roman Fort at Burscough. *British Archaeology*, the magazine published by the Council for British Archaeology, reported in its latest edition that the fort has now been scheduled (i.e. given legal protection). Archeologists have identified roads, ramparts, a gateway with double towers and stone buildings. Trial excavations revealed a large stone-buttressed building typical of a Roman granary.

Covid has meant that many of us are restricted and in some cases confined to home. We rely on memories of visits, travels and experiences to keep our minds active. Our first interest in archaeology may have been stimulated by an enthusiastic parent, a Young Archaeologists’ Club (YAC), watching Time Team, participating in a community dig, attending an adult ed’ course or a personal experience. In the 1970s I started to walk the Dorset coast path and as well as my interest in geology it fostered a latent interest in archaeology. There were hill forts, Roman sites, military installations, water mills, castles, tumuli and strip lynchets. It was the last of these that stuck in my mind as at first I thought they were geological features but they are medieval cultivation terraces.

I hadn't anticipated being in the Chair beyond April 2020 but the postponement of the AGM has meant I continued in post. MAS plans to have a virtual AGM in December so hopefully afterwards I can sit back and take stock. I've steadfastly avoided *Twitter* and *Facebook*. However I've realised that I'm missing out on some really interesting archaeological news and information particularly that produced by the Museum of Liverpool, so I've now succumbed and submitted my personal details to Zuckerberg's empire.

*Maurice Handley*

## **Museum of Liverpool**

The Museum of Liverpool has a new Medieval story map on its website. Please go to:

<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/7604c2e12af415f14ca9aa82682186bd/medieval-liverpool/index.html> to investigate.

## **On-Line Resources**

Another bumper bundle of links courtesy of Sue:

### ***BBC TV programmes***

\*As well as the new (first) series of three programmes about sites on the HS2 rail route advertised in the previous bulletin ie **Britain's Biggest Dig** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mmrf> there are several more that you may like to catch up on.

\*BBC 4's four episodes of **Inside Museums** included St Fagan's Museum, Wales: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000ngbs/inside-museums-series-1-1-st-fagans-national-museum-of-history>

\*Another new series **Inside Culture with Mary Beard** included episode 4/5 about the British Museum

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000mz1w/inside-culture-with-mary-beard>

\*And yet more: a series of three programmes on BBC 4 **The Secret History of Writing** (from hieroglyphs to emojis)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mtml>

\*Apologies if early episodes are no longer available for some of these series (when will BBC have catch up for more than one month!)

**Scotland from the Sky** started a new (previously on BBC Scotland) 3-part second series on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm BBC2.

Episode 1 focused on coasts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0004bnc>

Channel 4 has an ongoing series called **Bone Detectives**, hosted by Tori Herridge on Saturday evenings. I am not sure if these are repeats, new, or updates, but Episode 3 is about Norton Priory, focusing on someone buried in a high status location

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/bone-detectives-britains-buried-secrets/episode-guide>

and there are numerous repeats of old programmes on Yesterday (Freeview 25) and 5 Select (Freeview 54) and BBC 4 (Freeview 106) other good channels to try are the Smithsonian (Freeview 56) and PBS America (Freeview 91).

NB Sky Arts has recently become Freeview11 (you may need to retune your TV- use the remote control: Menu>Settings> Autotune usually works)

### ***Online talks***

**Society of Antiquaries online lecture** These appear to be free and open to the public. <https://www.sal.org.uk/events/>

And if you are interested in the **Early Medieval** period, there is an excellent on-going series of 10 project talks based on the excavations etc at **Rendelsham**, Suffolk. The talks are delivered live, and are also recorded and made available afterwards. You

need to book (free) for individual talks. ‘After 12 years of archaeological investigation, we have identified the site of the early **East Anglian royal settlement at Rendlesham**, first mentioned in the 7th century by Bede in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People.’ <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham-behind-the-scenes>

The Halton with Aughton Heritage Group have been investigating the 19<sup>th</sup> C engineering **Halton Mill** near Lancaster and will be uploading a series of Youtube videos here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcI3-q0f1SgR5VLuJ2A5FAA>

The Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University is holding a live online question and answer session, on Saturday 7 November, 2-3.30pm, with a panel of speakers who have contributed to the **Halton Mill** filmed presentations. The online event has a £5 booking fee but the YouTube films are free. You are encouraged to watch the filmed presentations in advance, but they will also be available online for an extended period after the live event.

Booking for talks at:

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/regional-heritage-centre/events/uncovering-halton-mill-the-last-industrial-site-on-the-lune>

### **Online resources**

The contents of Phase 1 and 2 of Early English Books On-Line are now freely available. Until recently access to the contents of this database were by subscription only. <https://www.english-corpora.org/eebo/>

British Library **Medieval Manuscript** blog – Heritage made digital: Tudor and Stuart manuscripts go online at <https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2020/09/heritage-made-digital-tudor-and-stuart-manuscripts-go-online.html>

The **Offa’s Dyke** Collaboratory (A Research Network for Offa’s Dyke, Wat’s Dyke and Early Medieval Western Britain) has been very active looking at early medieval linear boundaries. Access to blogs, online events, and the open access journal is here: <https://offaswatsdyke.wordpress.com/>

Google Arts & Culture and the CCT – **The Jesse Window**, St Mary’s Church, Shrewsbury

[https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-jesse-window/PwJiTj\\_2Kfa3Iw](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-jesse-window/PwJiTj_2Kfa3Iw)

PlosOne – The **dietary impact of the Norman Conquest**: a multiproxy archaeological investigation of Oxford, UK <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0235005>

DigVentures – **Lindisfarne** before and after the **Viking raids**: aerial 3D flyby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8-yLvOsM1g>

The Pre-History Guys – Interview with Tess Machling: **Torcs, Prehistoric society** and chocolate <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LN4a1Lso9WQ>

BBC – You’re Dead to Me [podcast] – **Neanderthals**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0853185>

Dr Allan Chapman – Fun with **medieval science**, find out what was hidden under the Westgate Shopping Centre in Oxford <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDv-syRpF0s>

The Conversation – Uncovered: the **WW2 ‘Scallywag Bunkers’** that were Britain’s last-ditch line of defence <https://theconversation.com/uncovered-the-ww2-scallywag-bunkers-that-were-britains-last-ditch-line-of-defence-140031>

History Collections – Paper to pixels: digitising **Lloyd’s Register’s historic ship** plan and survey report collection [blog post] <https://historycollections.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2020/10/08/paper-to-pixels-digitising-lloyds-registers-historic-ship-plan-and-survey-report/>

And bringing things up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: the **M6 celebrates 50 years** for the Lancaster to Penrith section with aerial photos from the John Laing Construction Company collection <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-54664515> and the collection itself (of the whole M6 route) is here:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/results/?searchType=HE+Archive+New&search=M6&filteroption=images&page=1>



**From the Editor**

Welcome to the November News Bulletin. The MAS Council met on 11th November where we finalised the arrangements for our delayed 2020 AGM. Further details appear below. We also had our second lecture via Zoom on 19th November. Mark gave an excellent illustrated lecture on recent archaeological work at Princes Dock. The talk was well attended by 28 members and went smoothly. Now we have gained confidence in the technology we are expanding our Winter lecture programme to include guest speakers from outside the Society. Details of the January lecture can be found on page 2. The version of Zoom that we are using can accommodate up to 100 attendees so please try to join us for our AGM and Quiz on 17th December.

This Bulletin is again rather brief. Inside you will find Maurice’s final instalment, as Society Chair, of ‘Archaeology is Everywhere’. I am sure there will be further contributions from him in the coming months. There is also an article from the University of Liverpool Field School on excavations at Greasby and Prescot. Sue has been busy compiling further useful links to a variety of sites containing useful on-line information and activities to keep you entertained during lockdown and beyond. This month’s list includes 2 TV series which you can catch up on if you have not been watching them.

**MAS 2020 AGM and Christmas Quiz**

The 2020 AGM will be held via Zoom on 17th December starting at 7.30 p.m. A link will be sent via e-mail a week or so before the meeting.

Enclosed with this Newsletter you should find an AGM agenda, the minutes from the last AGM, the 2019 Chair and Treasurer’s reports and Accounts. You will also find a voting paper which includes the nominations for the 2020 Council. This is the same list that appeared in the last Newsletter as no further nominations have been received.

There are 2 votes on the voting paper. The first is to accept the 2019 Accounts and to appoint an Auditor for 2020. The Auditor nominated by Council is named in the Treasurer’s Report. The second vote is to formally accept the Officers and members of Council for 2020. If you intend to vote in the AGM you need to complete the voting form and return it using an e-mail attachment or via post in good time to arrive before 17th December. The return address is [vanessa.oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:vanessa.oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) or to the Membership Secretary at 24 Rushton Avenue, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside WA12 0EN.

If there are any questions arising from the circulated AGM papers they should be submitted to the Chair, before the meeting. Return details for any questions are on the Agenda.

The next Newsletter will be issued prior to Christmas and will include the results of the AGM votes for those of you unable to join us on 17th December.

**Merseyside Archaeological Society**

*Hon Chair:*  
*Maurice Handley*

*Hon Secretary:*  
*Liz Stewart*

*Membership Secretary:*  
*Vanessa Oakden*  
*e-mail:*  
*[Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)*

*Hon Treasurer & Newsletter Editor:*  
*Dave Roberts*  
*e-mail: [drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk)*

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

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**Contents**

From the Editor.....	1
MAS 2020 AGM & Christmas Quiz.....	1
Winter Meetings 2020/21.....	2
Archaeology is Everywhere.....	2
University of Liverpool Field School.....	3
On-Line Resources.....	3

## Winter Meetings 2020/21

Meetings will be held 'virtually' via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand.

### *Programme*

**Thursday 17 December 7.30PM** Maurice Handley *AGM & Christmas Quiz*

Those without access to the internet will be able to submit a postal vote. This will be followed by Maurice's now traditional Christmas Quiz, though you will unfortunately have to supply your own mince pies and refreshments.

**Thursday 21 January 7.30 PM** Chris Kolonko, Citizan, 'Decoys and Rubble - Taking another look at the wartime coast'.

There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Zoom sessions will last 40 mins; please make sure you log on promptly.
2. Please set your microphone to mute whilst the speaker is talking. This is to ensure that we get the best audio quality so that everyone can hear.
3. Just as we would in a physical meeting, please save any questions until the end of the session.
4. It's possible to post text comments during Zoom meetings, but we found this quite distracting, so please keep this to a minimum.
5. If you'd rather not appear by video that can be turned off and replaced with a photo.
6. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to members in the week prior to the meeting, so please make sure that our membership sec, Vanessa Oakden, has your current email address.

There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>

We have now had 2 meetings using Zoom technology, both of which have been hugely successful.

## Archaeology is Everywhere

The meeting on December 17th will be our first attempt at a virtual AGM. As a charity we have to comply with the Charity Commissioners advice in these unusual circumstances. Please make sure you return your voting paper even if you can't or don't wish to attend the AGM.

The first AGM of the Merseyside Archaeological Society was in April 1977. There are still a few members who have been in the society since those early days, including Dorothy O'Hanlon and Dave Roberts who both served on the original steering committee. It won't be long before we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary and I'm sure the MAS Council would welcome any suggestions for a suitable event on reaching that milestone. Meanwhile we hope to be back to normal soon and will resume planning the Archaeology in Merseyside (AIM) conference that was postponed until October.

Professional archaeologists need a wide knowledge to be able to investigate so many different types of site. In an average year they might be involved with a range of investigations from Prehistoric to World War Two. However, for our Christmas Quiz after the AGM you will not need such a vast range of expertise. The short quiz, based mainly on what we have seen or heard about during this year, will consist of a series of illustrations followed by multi-choice answers. It's not competitive or intended to be difficult. Just bring a pen and paper to record your answers.

*Maurice Handley*

## University of Liverpool Field School October 2020

Despite the best efforts of the pandemic, the University of Liverpool undergraduate training excavation took place, directed by Harold Mytum and Rob Philpott. We picked two contrasting sites to provide a varied experience for the students. At the first, in Greasby, Wirral, we investigated a sub-rectangular enclosure which had been found in aerial reconnaissance in 1991. Superficially this resembled Romano-British enclosures in the lowland North West. However, the enclosure is unusual for this region as it has a small annexe at one end and is divided into two compartments by a cross-ditch. There is also a sinuous feature, apparently a trackway, running across it which must therefore be later in date. We cut nine (socially distanced) trenches as an evaluation across the enclosure ditch and in the interior. The enclosure ditch had a uniform fill, suggesting it had not filled in gradually with the kind of detritus and rubbish accumulation found elsewhere, including nearby in the Romano-British enclosure ditch at Irby, but had rather been largely backfilled in a single operation. The three main ditch sections produced no artefacts. Within the enclosure there were traces of structural gullies and post-holes but they required a wider area than the narrow trenches to make coherent sense. The trenches also identified the trackway, which had been consolidated with pebbles. The results were somewhat unexpected. The lack of Roman finds, especially pottery, suggests it was not occupied during the Roman period but during an aceramic period. The Iron Age is a possibility but so is the early medieval period. It is worth noting that the early medieval site at Digg Lane, Moreton was surrounded by an enclosure ditch. One highly speculative thought is that the place-name Greasby appears in Domesday Book in 1086 as *Gravesberie*, Old English for 'stronghold (burh) at a wood'. Could this enclosure be the 'stronghold' which gave Greasby its name? We have no dating evidence yet but radiocarbon from charcoal may yet provide us with at least the correct millennium.

The second week saw test-pitting in Prescott Vicarage garden. The walled garden here, mapped in 1809 and probably of 18th-century date, has a fine south-facing aspect. It lies close to the church, in part of an ecclesiastical complex which has been defined since at least the mid 15th century when a vicarage was built by King's College Cambridge, the lords of Prescott manor.

We dug 10 one-metre square test-pits to the natural glacial till, identifying the whole sequence of build up in each trench. Unsurprisingly, the layers showed much reworking through gardening and cultivation. However, they produced a large and interesting sample of cultural material with connections to Prescott's industries. They included glass waste probably from the early 18th-century glass factory nearby in West Street. Thin-walled table wares in white salt-glazed stoneware, and coarser brown salt-glazed stoneware were probably products of the factory recorded in the mid 18th century by Dr Richard Pococke. There was a little abraded medieval pottery, with the heavily sanded fabrics and thin splash-glazes characteristic of local products, and the usual dark-glazed wares in profusion. Further work is planned in Prescott in 2021 involving the local community and the University and a project which enables local people to investigate the historic fabric of their own town through archaeological excavation. We anticipate more pottery! We will put a notice in the newsletter when details of the community project are finalised.

*Rob Philpott and Harold Mytum*

## On-Line Resources

### *TV programmes to watch or catch up on*

**Surviving the Stone Age** 7.10 - 8.10pm Channel 4 started Sat 7<sup>th</sup> November 3 programmes. A group of people are in Bulgaria in a 'living experiment'

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/surviving-the-stone-age/episode-guide>

**Britain's Most Historic Towns** 8.10 – 9.10pm Channel 4 started Sat 7<sup>th</sup> November

There will be 5 programmes and the first ones have been Medieval Lincoln, Restoration London, and Nelson/Trafalgar era naval Portsmouth. This is Series 3 and the two previous series (6 programmes each) are also available at

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/britains-most-historic-towns/episode-guide>

### *Dates for your diary*

Free online two-day conference for a research project looking at **farming and food production in the Anglo-Saxon period** FEEDSAX.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec from 9.30am – 5pm, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec morning only 10 am – 12.30**

To participate, **register in advance (free)**. Registration and full programme here:

<https://feedsax.arch.ox.ac.uk/conference.html>

NB if anyone is interested in the publications of the **Medieval Settlement Research Group**, the last 12 years of their journal are available to download free from the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). There is a very short time delay ie 2018 can be downloaded

now, 2019 will be available from November 2021 but you can see the 2019 Contents pages now at:  
<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/series.xhtml?recordId=1000235>

If you go to the **ADS library** browse page <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse.xhtml> you can see what other journals, monographs etc are also available!

### **Greater Manchester Archaeology Day & Festival (virtual meeting) 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December**

[www.diggreatermanchester.wordpress.com](http://www.diggreatermanchester.wordpress.com) this will be a twitter conference (like Liverpool Museum's Festival of Archaeology in the summer), a series of podcasts, plus some pre-recorded talks put online

### ***Self-guided walks***

Available to download from online websites:

**Southport area:** lots of local walks around the town and its hinterland available at

<https://www.visitsouthport.com/inspire-me/top-picks/top-10-walks>

and for cyclists: <https://www.visitsouthport.com/things-to-do/walking-cycling> This site uses an app to download the tours from the website <https://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org/programs/southport-historic-tours/>

This one for historical Southport town is a two sided A4 leaflet that you can print out

<http://southportnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SHS-Self-Guided-Historical-Walking-Tour.pdf>

**Fort Crosby** (a Second World War military installation partly demolished and partly still visible in the open access dunes, accessible from the coastal path). As part of the HLF-funded Sefton Coastal landscape partnership scheme, Alison Burns created an illustrated booklet well worth reading about the site\*.

[https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten\\_Fort\\_Crosby\\_Dune\\_Heritage\\_Revealed](https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten_Fort_Crosby_Dune_Heritage_Revealed)

To help people explore the accessible remains (some are off-limits on the Altcar Military training site), she also published a guided walk called TRACING THE PAST (NB 24MB to download) [https://www.academia.edu/24614978/TRACING\\_THE\\_PAST](https://www.academia.edu/24614978/TRACING_THE_PAST)

\* If you are not already registered on academia you can do it for free and then access articles that people have published and made publicly available

### **Formby** prehistoric footprints, archaeology and history:

As part of the coastal landscape partnership project, Alison also published (\*on academia) a booklet on the human and animal footprints that are sometimes exposed on the foreshore at Formby

[https://www.academia.edu/8297938/The\\_Prehistoric\\_Footprints\\_at\\_Formby](https://www.academia.edu/8297938/The_Prehistoric_Footprints_at_Formby)

Other information about the area is available through the National Trust Formby website:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby/features/prehistoric-footprints-at-formby>

Lots of ideas for walks around Formby looking at evidence of past landuse and activities (marked on a map) also provided by the National Trust

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby/trails/undiscovered-formby>

### **Liverpool city**

**Book: Walks through History, Liverpool** by David Lewis published by Breedon Books in 2007. It includes 12 walks starting with the original seven streets dealing with the development of the city through its urban areas, docks, parks and personalities. The text and maps are easy to follow and very readable. And a downloadable app for a self-guided historical tour of Liverpool is available here:

<https://www.gpsmycity.com/tours/liverpool-historical-sites-walking-tour-4808.html>



**Wirral:**

Lots of good walking guides in Wirral (including the one for Bidston Hill that some MAS members explored in September) available from the Local authority website.

Each route has a clear map and a separate description to help you follow the route.

<https://www.visitwirral.com/things-to-do/activities/walking>

**Thelwall:**

The Thelwall History Group have devised a short walk (about 1 mile) around about the village. There are lots of interesting highlights clearly mapped on a map and the leaflet can be downloaded from here:

<http://thelwallcommunity.co.uk>

**Get involved:**

And if you fancy creating your own walking tour route, the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) has lots of ideas, some example tours and an app to help you create your own tour here:

[https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/blog/explore-heritage-your-local-area-1604591947?dm\\_i=10MV,748BX,MNXPP3,SS6T7,1](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/blog/explore-heritage-your-local-area-1604591947?dm_i=10MV,748BX,MNXPP3,SS6T7,1)

**Take on the Local Explorer Challenge**

The CBA's Local Explorer Challenge is your chance to get out and about and discover the historic environment in your neighbourhood. We've created a challenge for you to do with family or friends, in person or online. Download the challenge card and see how many things you can find. From ghost signs to graffiti, evidence of the history of your local environment is everywhere without you necessarily noticing it. This activity is designed to reveal that history and get you thinking archaeologically about where you live.

Share what you find on social media using the [#LocalExplorerChallenge\(link is external\)](#) hashtag.

Download your challenge card here: <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/local-explorer-bingo-challenge-1601911002>

If you missed the **CBA Festival of Archaeology**, which included a week of online events in October, several of them were recorded and are available through their website here:

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/about>

*Sue Stallibrass*



**From the Editor**

Welcome to the December News Bulletin, which is slightly earlier than usual. In this issue we report back on the votes that took place at the AGM and introduce you to the new Council. Now we have successfully trialled the Zoom technology we can announce our Winter 2021 lecture programme with guest speakers and there is further information on page 2. We also have another instalment of Maurice's 'Archaeology is Everywhere' series, the usual links and some ideas to make the Newsletter more inclusive.

You will notice aside that Roy Forshaw has succeeded Maurice as our Chairman. MAS Chairs normally serve for a period of 2 years. Due to the delayed AGM Maurice has been in post for an extra 8 months and has successfully guided the Society through a difficult year. Maurice will remain on the Council as Past-Chair.

Hopefully, this Bulletin will reach the majority of you before the 25th December and it remains for me to wish you an enjoyable Christmas. With some optimism, we can also look forward to a 2021 where we can resume face-to-face meetings and revive our fieldtrip programme in the Summer.

With Seasonal good wishes,

*Dave Roberts*

**MAS 2020 AGM and Christmas Quiz**

The 2020 AGM was held via Zoom on 17th December and was attended by 22 members. The result of the vote submitted prior to the meeting was passed as follows. 6 postal votes and 15 votes via e-mail were received. 21 members voted to accept the 2019 Accounts and the nomination put forward to elect the 2020 Council. The 2020 MAS Council is:

**Officers:**

- Hon. Chair: Roy Forshaw
- Hon. Secretary: Liz Stewart
- Hon. Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Dave Roberts

**Members of Council:**

- Mark Adams (Events Organiser), Ben Croxford, Maurice Handley (Past Chair), Vanessa Oakden (Membership Secretary), Rob Philpott, Samantha Rowe, David Scott, Sue Stallibrass, Chris Wood

In addition, Nancy Jenkins was elected as the Society's Auditor for 2020.

Thank you to Maurice for all the hard work during your role as Society Chair.

The AGM was followed by yet another excellent Quiz from Maurice. We hope that we will be able to include it in the January News Bulletin for members who were unable to be present at the AGM.

**Merseyside Archaeological Society**

*Hon Chair:*  
*Roy Forshaw*

*Hon Secretary:*  
*Liz Stewart*

*Membership Secretary:*  
*Vanessa Oakden*  
*e-mail:*  
*Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk*

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

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

**Contents**

From the Editor.....1  
 MAS 2020 AGM & Christmas Quiz.....1  
 Winter Meetings 2020/21.....2  
 Archaeology is Everywhere.....2  
 Request for Newsletter articles.....3  
 On-Line Resources.....4

## Winter Meetings 2021

Meetings will be held ‘virtually’ via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand.

### *Programme*

**Thursday 21 January 7.30 PM.** Chris Kolonko, CiTIZAN, ‘Decoys and Rubble - Taking another look at the wartime coast’.

**Thursday 18th February 7.30 P.M.** Heather Beeton, Museum of Liverpool, recent PAS finds.

**Thursday 18th March 7.30 P.M.** Claire Christie, Headland Archaeology: Triton Knoll.

There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Zoom sessions will last 40 mins; please make sure you log on promptly.
2. Please set your microphone to mute whilst the speaker is talking. This is to ensure that we get the best audio quality so that everyone can hear.
3. Just as we would in a physical meeting, please save any questions until the end of the session.
4. It's possible to post text comments during Zoom meetings, but we found this quite distracting, so please keep this to a minimum.
5. If you'd rather not appear by video that can be turned off and replaced with a photo.
6. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to members in the week prior to the meeting, so please make sure that our membership sec, Vanessa Oakden, has your current email address.

There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M> .

## Archaeology is Everywhere



*One of the concrete bunkers photographed in February 2019 and in November 2020. The bunkers were originally camouflaged under grass covered mounds and some still retain their grass roofs.*

Over the last 3 years I've been photographing sites for the MIHS Guide to the Industrial Heritage of Merseyside. Inevitably now that it's published, I'm finding that it will need some corrections and updates. One site in particular has captured my attention. The former Royal Ordnance Factory at Kirkby had a unique group of ten bomb-proof bunkers which appeared in the Guide. During the Autumn four of the ten bunkers were demolished.

The site lies within Knowsley Industrial Estate and is owned by Knowsley Council. Earlier in the year, the Council had applied to itself as the planning authority for permission to demolish the bunkers. They are not protected so this was a relatively straightforward procedure. However, the Council as applicants commissioned an archaeological report and a heritage statement. After approval was given, a second and more comprehensive archaeological survey was carried out by Oxford Archaeology North (OAN). The heritage statement can be viewed at : <https://doi.org/10.5284/1082630>

Near to the bunkers is the modern head office and huge warehouse of a major clothing retailer. Around the country many former wartime sites have become trading estates with similar distribution centres. During the Covid crisis these have played a significant role in changing the way we shop - an influence on our society that is an unexpected legacy of 20th century warfare.

Best wishes for the season and a happy and safe 2021.

*Maurice Handley*

### **Please contribute your own articles about local places of interest!**

The MAS membership is very knowledgeable about local sites and history, and many people have been (re)-discovering places of interest near to where they live- a beneficial side-effect of not being able to travel further afield during Covid restrictions. Why not share some information about places you have noticed that others may like to discover? Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor Dave Roberts e-mail: [drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk)

What have you noticed? It could be a landscape feature or a building, a structure (eg bridge, canal etc) or simply one small detail (such as an interesting doorway, or a cast iron manhole cover made by a local manufacturer).

This isn't a competition, but we would like the site to be:

- (1) local- preferably within Merseyside, but if you live elsewhere, somewhere that is local to you &
- (2) visible from a public place (even if not accessible), so that anyone can visit or look at it.

Please provide a location so that people can find it (eg street address, postcode, or National Grid Reference) and a few lines about why you find the site interesting. If you can, a photo would be good (but don't step backwards into a road to get a better view!). Here's an example:

### **The bear pit, Victorian Pleasure Gardens, Eastham Country Park, Ferry Road, Eastham, Wirral, CH62 0BH**

This was a completely unexpected discovery on a wet day in late November. A friend had suggested a walk in Eastham Country Park, which has woodland walks and views across the Mersey. We stepped through the monumental arch into the remains of the pleasure gardens, trying to track down the overgrown remains of landscaped walks, fountains etc, and almost found the bear pit by accident. It's very well preserved. It used to house two brown bears on display to Victorian visitors. I was glad it wasn't a bear-baiting pit, or used for performing bears (like the Chester amphitheatre or the Audlem Bear Stone) but it still seemed a very small container for two large animals who should have lived in the wild. My favourite part was walking into the pit down the narrow, shallow stairs. The bear keepers must have walked the bears into the pit down these steps, presumably on collars and leashes. The photo shows the doorway into the pit from the bottom of the steps.



NB This site happens to have a web presence, so I have included some links, but many do not <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks/eastham-country-park>

<https://designanddragons.wordpress.com/2015/10/28/a-victorian-day-out-eastham-country-park/>

*Sue Stallibrass*

## On-Line Resources

The **Manchester Archaeology Festival** is usually held on the last Saturday of November, but due to COVID restrictions this year's event has been posted online, with new content uploaded on Sat/Sun 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> December. The homepage is at <https://diggreatermanchester.wordpress.com/gmaf-2020-online-events/>

There are lots of resources available including free downloads of the latest nine books in the **Greater Manchester's Past Revealed** series. These are extremely accessibly written and illustrated short books that present the results of recent projects, often within a wider regional context. You can access them all at <https://diggreatermanchester.wordpress.com/publications/>

Other resources are three videos on a new, dedicated YouTube channel  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfrO0kBmxUF3nszZ\\_Y1R7OA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfrO0kBmxUF3nszZ_Y1R7OA)

- 1- **Greater Manchester Archaeology update for 2020** by Norman Redhead
- 2 – Recent Archaeological Work on the **Bridgewater Canal in Worsley** by Mike Nevell
- 3 – The **Archaeology of the Smart Phone** by Prof Nigel Linge

The **History of Halton Mill**, in the Lune Valley, Lancashire (update): Free online resources are continuing to come on-stream on YouTube for this National Lottery Heritage Funded project. The most recent upload is an extended version of a film that a canoeist made for the Halton Mill community back in 2012: '45 Years at Halton Rapids site'. You can access all of the films (there were 11 on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, including ones about a mechanical elephant!) at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcI3-q0f1SgR5VLuJ2A5FAA>

Another productive Lottery-funded project is the **Westmorland Dales landscape partnership**. You can access their homepage to find out about all of their projects and to download their newsletters here: <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership>

Projects that might be of most interest to MAS members are those in the Cultural Heritage group <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/Site/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership/Category/cultural-heritage-projects>

There is a well-illustrated article about **Roman roads** <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/roman-soldiers-and-their-roads-in-westmorland/> and a welcome news item about the re-opening (on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec) of the **Smardale viaduct** <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/smardale-gill-viaduct-re-opens>

### *Other useful online links*

Maritime Archaeology Trust – **3D wreck tours**  
<https://maritimearchaeologytrust.org/3d-wreck-tours>

Festival of Archaeology – **3D image** training at the British Museum [blog post]  
<https://blog.archaeologyuk.org/2019/08/06/3d-modelling-at-the-british-museum-the-results/>

MOLA – These **boots were made for Romans**  
<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/these-boots-were-made-romans>

SAS – Discover collections – A-Z of **online collections**  
<https://historycollections.blogs.sas.ac.uk/discover-collections/>

Festival of Archaeology – **200 years of Egyptology**: the good, the bad and the ugly  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=WRzvVxz2mhg>

National Library of Scotland – **Wick Society Kinora Reels** collection  
<https://movingimage.nls.uk/film/4627>

Smithsonian Magazine – How profits from **slavery changed the landscape of the Scottish Highlands**  
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-research-investigates-how-enslavement-profits-changed-landscape-scottish-highlands-180976311/>

Miranda Kaufmann – Talking **Black Tudors** [blog post]

<http://www.mirandakaufmann.com/blog/talking-black-tudors-drake-and-elizabeth-i-with-alice-roberts-for-channel-4s-britains-most-historic-towns-elizabethan-plymouth-episode#>

Royal Historical Society – **RHS race, ethnicity and equality roadmap** for change II [blog post]

<https://blog.royalhistsoc.org/2020/11/25/rhs-race-ethnicity-and-equality-roadmap-for-change-ii/>

British Library – Coast: **sounds and stories of Britain's coastline**

<https://www.bl.uk/coast>

Transport for London – Corporate **archives World War II** showcase

<https://tfl.access.preservica.com/>

### *Historical Christmases on TV*

**Tudor Monastery Farm Christmas** Historian Ruth Goodman and archaeologists Tom Pinfold and Peter Ginn recreate how the farms of Tudor England celebrated the 12 days of Christmas with banquets and carol singing. Shown BBC2 & BBC4 10<sup>th</sup> Dec (NB has been shown in previous years) expires c 7<sup>th</sup> Jan <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03ndb8c>

**A Merry Tudor Christmas with Lucy Worsley**. Recreating festivities from Henry VIII's era, Lucy Worsley dresses, eats, drinks, sings and parties like it is 500 years ago - discovering long-lost traditions as well as familiar customs. Shown BBC2 12<sup>th</sup> Dec (NB first shown Dec 2019), expires c 10<sup>th</sup> Jan <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000cfd5>

and the BBC has a whole collection of historical Christmas programmes at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08zr5r6>

Christmas at Hampton Court, broadcast Channel 5 Tues 15th Dec <https://www.channel5.com/show/christmas-at-hampton-court/>

*Sue Stallibrass*