



Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 1/2021

Registered Charity No 510831

From the Chair

This is my first submission as Chair so I would like to wish everyone who was not at our January Zoom lecture a very happy new year with life hopefully returning to a more normal fashion in the summer. MAS Council is reviewing its 2021 events program and adjustments are being made accordingly subject to restrictions in place at the time. Announcements will be made in future newsletters.

Chris Kolonko from CITiZAN gave us an excellent zoom lecture on the region's war time coastal WWII defences which stimulated a lot of discussion and interest. Chris has provided a write up for this newsletter and there have also been offers from others who have researched the topic. Elsewhere in the newsletter there will be appeals for you to offer newsletter contributions or short presentations in our members evening in April. Details on page 2.

Outside the Society there are some interesting proposals in the museum world. National Museums Liverpool have announced their 'waterfront transformation project' which aims to regenerate historic areas of the docks to create vibrant, welcoming and relevant public spaces for everyone to share, enjoy and explore Liverpool's rich heritage <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/waterfront-transformation-project>. A new Artificial Intelligence exhibition (AI) has been recently installed in World Museum which will open once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

To summarise, the Society will still aim to inform and entertain the membership throughout 2021, by one means or another.

Roy Forshaw

2021 Subscriptions

MAS Subscriptions fell due on 1st January. Renewal rates for 2021 are:

Ordinary £15, Concession £10 (retired, unwaged, student over 18), Junior £2, Family £18, Institutional £25. Please remember to add £3 if you want to receive the Newsletter by post.

If possible please pay direct to the bank. The Society bank account details are:

Account: Merseyside Archaeological Society
Bank: HSBC, 99-101 Lord Street, Liverpool L2 6PG
Sort Code: 40-29-08
Account No: 11098705
Reference: MAS Subs

Please send any forms and cheques to: Vanessa Oakden, Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool, L3 1DG
Email address: Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

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
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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

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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 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.

Thursday 15th April 7.30 P.M. Members Evening. *We have decided to postpone the 2021 AGM until Thursday 16th September as it is only a matter of months since we held the 2020 AGM in December. It has been suggested that we hold a Members evening which will give us the opportunity to try something a little less formal using Zoom. Members are invited to give a short (say 5- 10 minutes) presentation on a Site or Object of interest. A Photo or slides can be submitted in advance so contributors don't have to worry too much about operating the technology. Please let Roy know by 1st March if you wish to contribute: roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk*

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

Archaeology is Everywhere



On a sunny morning last Christmas Eve, we strolled along the promenade at West Bank in Widnes. The low tide had exposed the remains of rotting hulks that lay half-buried in the mud, with the inevitable detritus including old tyres, a mattress, a dustbin and a supermarket trolley. Here was archaeology in the making. In the background we could see the entrance to the dock at Spike Island, the cooling towers of Fiddlers Ferry Power Station and the new bridge crossing the Mersey - examples of 19th, 20th and 21st century technology which might also one day vanish beneath the mud and sediments or simply be demolished and crushed to provide hard core for another construction project. The power station is no longer fit for purpose and now closed down - I wondered is it worth keeping as an industrial museum, like those giant stationary steam engines that once powered the mills and coal mines of Lancashire?

West Bank can be reached by following the signs to the Catalyst Museum where there is a car park. From there you can explore Spike Island or follow the edge of the river downstream to the Silver Jubilee Bridge which has a pedestrian walkway across to Runcorn (access is from Irwell Street). In normal times the Catalyst Museum has a café and toilets.

Maurice Handley

Quiz Answers

1c, 2d, 3b, 4b, 5c, 6c, 7d, 8a, 9d, 10d, 11d, 12b.

'Archaeology isn't always even rubbish'; or 'What Happened Before Bin-Men Were Invented?'

The 'null watching brief' or 'null evaluation' where nothing archaeological is found is often cited as the bane of many professional archaeologists' lives. Usually dismissed as 'boring' or 'pointless', I've never viewed them like that, preferring to at least see 'evidence of lack' rather than attempting to work from 'lack of evidence'. In fact 'evidence of lack' can potentially be almost informative as finding 'something', as I'll attempt to demonstrate below.

I've had my fair share of null projects, some which spring to mind are the Abbot of Chester's lodge at Ince Manor, where despite the presence of standing medieval buildings barely any finds evidence was found in c. 10 hand-dug evaluation trenches. I've run 2-3 watching briefs in the grounds at Speke Hall where there were very few finds or structural features, and more recently at Formby Hall where there was also nothing. Newton Hall at Newton-le-Willows (Adams in prep) had more finds evidence, but still not huge quantities of pottery, the total assemblage size is in the low hundreds. Before anybody questions my competence at spotting pottery, this seems to be part of a broader pattern on higher status medieval and post-medieval sites in the North-West. For example, at Abbey Farm, Risley, despite extensive excavation by Oxford Archaeology North of a moated site, only relatively small quantities of pottery (2681 sherds dating to the 16th to late 18th century) were recovered (Heawood 2004); though that may in part be due to the excavation methodology (Ward 2004). However, it is part of a wider pattern, for example, at Halton Castle (Cattell 2016) where a total of c. 270 sherds of medieval and post-medieval sherds were found (later post-medieval whitewares etc have been excluded from this count), though there are exceptions, such as Norton Priory, where assemblages are larger.

There's a different pattern on lower status farms and cottages where, contrary to expectation, the finds assemblages are often almost as big, sometimes larger, than those found on the higher status manorial and moated sites. For example, on farms such as Big Lea Green (Towle & Speakman, 2012) ceramics and other domestic debris seem to have been discarded into cut features such as ditches close to the dwelling, though at Lea Green that practice appears to relate at least in part to the disposal of wares no longer considered fashionable or of use when the site changed hands. A good example is Bleak House, the site of a cottage in Netherton, which despite its lowly status produced almost as much ceramic evidence as was found at Newton Hall (Adams in prep). The reasons for this are uncertain, but it is likely to relate at least in part to the nature of the disposal of domestic debris on the higher status sites, such as Ince Manor, Speke Hall and Formby Hall, which appears to be different to that observed on lower status sites in the region.

It seems likely that domestic debris from higher status sites was disposed of by it being distributed across the surrounding fields, probably during regular manuring activities. The spreading of 'muck' is referenced from the mid-15th century at Speke Hall (Nicholson 1979, 9) and the diarist Nicholas Blundell of Crosby Hall makes several references to the spreading of 'muck' across his fields. For example, on the 11th of May 1711 he records that '*I led Muck with three of my owne [sic] carts & with 3 Boones [i.e. loaned or borrowed carts]*' whilst entries for 10th and 12th of April 1706 record the demolition of his '*Muck-Hous*' [sic] (Tyrer 1968). It's not clear what Blundell meant by 'muck', it may have consisted entirely of animal manure, but is perhaps more likely to have

consisted of manure mixed with household ash and other domestic debris. Muck Houses are not mentioned in either the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage <http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/> consulted 3/12/20 or Historic England's 'National Farm Building Types', though Blundell's may have been similar in form and function to the Ash Houses found in South-West England (English Heritage 2013, 3). The photograph is of a 19th century Devon ash house at Middle Henstill and gives an idea of their form, though it is likely that Nicolas Blundell's was larger. See this article for more details: https://www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk/ash_house.htm.



© Copyright [Lewis Clarke](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#). Sometimes finding 'nothing' can be as interesting and informative as finding 'something'.

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Mark Adams

'Decoys and Rubble - Taking another look at the wartime coast'. Summary of MAS lecture 21st January 2021



As the key port for transatlantic shipping, Liverpool was a key strategic target for aerial bombing by the Luftwaffe. As a result, Liverpool was heavily defended with both passive (decoys, barrage balloons and Royal Observer Corps posts) and active defences (anti-aircraft batteries and airfields) to attack any incoming bombers.

The bombing decoy programme started in Autumn 1939, with both day and night decoy sites being established to draw bombers away from their intended targets. This system was complex, consisting of day and night dummy aerodromes ('K' & 'Q' sites), decoy fires ('QF' and 'Starfish' sites), simulated urban and factory lighting ('QL' sites), as well as complexes of dummy factories and buildings. Dobinson identified 792 decoys on 593 sites in England.

Team North of the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITiZAN) has recently been undertaking research to record and interpret two of the 24 decoys established to protect Liverpool from aerial bombardment. The team undertook a survey of the surviving QL decoy crew shelter at Formby in 2019 and early 2020 and have been carrying out further research on the site (photo above).

CITiZAN is keen for volunteers to get involved with its efforts to record vulnerable archaeological remains in the coastal and intertidal zone within the Liverpool Bay discovery programme area.

If you would like to find out more, please check out the website or contact CITiZAN Community Archaeologist Chris Kolonko at ckolonko@mola.org.uk

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

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/formby-ql-crew-shelter-0071cd57309b4897b2c3470aad3d5370>

<https://citizan.org.uk/blog/2020/Mar/02/blitz-defence-formby/>

Chris Kolonko, CiTIZAN

Editor's note: Imperial War Museum footage regarding 'deception' and 'concealment' can be found here:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1060020970>



Military Archaeology on the Sefton Shoreline

The military services have been prime users of the dune system on the Sefton coast since 1862 when Altcar Rifle Range was established on the reclaimed sandy Bailings Wharf on Lord Sefton's estate. Much of the estate was modified to produce butts, targets, service roads and ancillary buildings. Towards the end of the Crimean War, the giant Horsfall Gun was tested there. It was 13 feet long and weighed 21 tons and was manufactured at the Mersey Forge, Toxteth, Liverpool. The gun is said to have fired a cannon ball weighing 300lbs a distance of 5 miles. Today, the northern part of the state supports fixed dunes, dune-grassland, and small slacks, extensively used by regular, reserve and cadet units from all three Services for military and civilian activities and training.

Training also took place on the nearby Cabin Hill until 1979 and included digging fox holes and occasional use of heavy vehicles such as tanks.



Another large-scale military facility was the 18.3 acres Fort Crosby built on the dunes near Hightown in 1906. Together with Fort Perch Rock at New Brighton, these batteries of six-inch naval guns were installed to protect the Mersey coast in both World Wars but were never fired. After the first World War, Fort Crosby became a training centre with 40 gunners stationed there. The system of searchlights, barracks, anti-aircraft guns and gun emplacements facing out to sea observed shipping but never saw action in WW2. It also had underground ammunition dumps and military planning rooms, also its own railway crossing known as Sniggery Crossing – between Hightown and Hall Road stations.

After 1945, Fort Crosby was designated Camp 678 for German POWs controlled by British and Polish soldiers. It had accommodation, a church, a cinema, a hospital, and a football pitch. By 1950 the prison camp had closed and was used by the Territorial Army until 1954. The site was demolished in 1967 although some buildings remained such as block houses, concrete platforms and tall fence supports until 1983 when the area was restored.

Throughout World War 2 the King's Liverpool Regiment's main depot was the former Harrington Barracks (now a housing estate) in Formby. The regiment was previously based at Seaforth but moved to Formby for more accommodation and a bigger training area. Training took place in large gyms, on the large parade ground and in the surrounding fields.

During the Cold War, a ROC Nuclear Monitoring Post was built next to the previous observation platform at Ravenmeols. Erosion caused the structure to become vulnerable to potential bomb blast damage and subsidence, so it was closed around 1966-68 and replaced with a new building inside the Woodvale perimeter. A ruined block house built after the May 1941 blitz at the western end of Range Lane, Formby was one of fourteen 'Starfish' decoys for Liverpool, a lighting system to draw enemy bombers away from the Mersey docks. The relicts of coastal military presence are identifiable and recorded.

Howard Harris

Cast Iron Sewer Ventilation in Southport



A



B



C



D

Those of you who went on the MAS guided walk down Lord Street, Southport a few years ago may recall stopping outside the Prince of Wales Hotel to inspect a rather battered lamppost on the corner of Portland Street (A). The cast iron column in question has two plaques on the base which record that it is a "J.E. Webb's Patent Sewer Gas Destructor" and that it was made by the "Webb Lamp Co. Limited 11 Poultry [E.O?]." It worked like a normal gas lamp but had a second inlet which connected with the sewers below. The idea was that the burning lamp would draw gasses up from the sewer and "safely" dispose of them. Joseph Edmund Webb, of 11 Poultry, City of London, filed a patent in 1901 but had earlier patents going back to 1894 (<https://www.xenophon.org.uk/historywebblampco.html>).

There is a second such lamp in the north west corner of St Paul's Square, off of Duke Street (B). It is identical to the one by the Prince of Wales Hotel but better preserved, with the frame for the glass lantern remaining.

Recent lockdown-rules-compliant exercise (walking round the streets) has meant I have located another one of these in Southport. It is at the south eastern end of Portland Street, opposite the junction with Walnut Street (C). This one is missing a ladder rest but has part of the cowl above the frame for the lantern. It is also slightly different from the other two in that one of its plaques reads "Sewer Gas Extractor & Destructor Webb's Patent".

The fourth piece of cast iron sewer ventilation apparatus is probably a little later in date and is not a lamp. To the south of the pier there is a large upright section of cast iron on Southport beach, opposite Pleasureland (D). It is an outfall ventilation pipe and is in an advanced state of corrosion. Until recently it had a domed grid over the top and support struts around it. It is first marked on the 3rd edition 25" OS map of 1928. It is of interest because rather unusually it has text around the column and depth measurements below. It reads "Tidal Standards", "Fleetwood" and "Liverpool". The Roman numerals below each place name recording the tide height measurement scale, above Old Dock Sill for Liverpool, up to 20 feet, and up to 29 feet for Fleetwood.

If you know of any more interesting bits of cast iron, sewer related or not, let me know:

Ben Croxford

Merseyside.her@sefton.gov.uk

Roman 'dolphin' brooch from Rushton, Cheshire West and Chester LVPL-016404



A mostly complete cast lead or lead alloy Roman Colchester derivative Polden Hill (dolphin) brooch dating to c.AD 43-100.

The object comprises the bow, head, and wings. The remains of the brooch such as the catchplate and pin are missing. The bow head is hump-like, and slightly angular (comma shaped) in profile, with cylindrical wings projecting from either side at the top of the head. At the mid-point between the wings is a small rectangular socket presumably for the placement of the pin. The bow is undecorated and tapers to a rounded point that does not appear broken.

Dimensions:

Length 26.3mm; wing length 18.5mm; wing width 6.7mm; bow width 8.11mm; bow thickness 5.5mm; weight 13g.

Roman brooches composed of lead are uncommon discoveries, with the majority being cast in copper alloy. To date there are over 32,000 Roman brooches recorded on the PAS database, with only 28 of those noted as composed of lead or lead alloy, which attests to their rarity. Most of these lead brooches are Colchester derivative Polden Hill types, such as this example, a few are trumpet brooches and there is one crossbow brooch. This is the second lead brooch to be reported to the PAS from Cheshire, the first being a fragment of a trumpet brooch from Pickmere, Cheshire East (LVPL-A56A54).

The Rushton brooch is a metal detector find near Eaton Roman Villa. Excavations at the site from 1980-2 revealed four phases of construction, suggesting the villa proper to date from c.AD 170 onwards (Mason 1983: 72). Material culture recovered from the site is slim and largely comprises building materials and a few 4th century finds with the earlier phases of construction remaining poorly understood. Recent metal detecting activity in the area has revealed a further abundance of Roman material that is likely to be related to the villa, including a second copper alloy 'dolphin' brooch, a Wirral type brooch, and a probable fragment of roof tile with the brooches securely dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

The recovery of 1st and 2nd century material through the metal detector finds from the area have the potential to shed further light on these earlier phases of occupation at the villa site. The lead brooch may be particularly insightful, as although its function is uncertain, Mackreth (2011: 5) argues that lead brooches likely functioned as patterns for making moulds due to the material's ease of working. It is therefore possible that the presence of lead or lead alloy brooches at a site may be evidence of brooch manufacturing. As a single find the Rushton brooch cannot be firm evidence of brooch manufacturing at or near to Eaton Villa, but as the site's surrounding area continues to be investigated through metal detecting activities, we will likely gain a greater understanding of the villa and of Roman activity near Eaton.

Mackreth, D F (2011) *Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain: Volume 1*, Oxbow Books, Oxford.

Mason, D J P (1983) 'Excavations at the Roman Villa', *Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin Vol.9* pp. 67-73.

Heather Beeton

Finds Liaison Officer for Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside

Online resources

Please note- due to the lead-in time for the monthly newsletter, I don't include upcoming talks, but you can visit MAS's Facebook and Twitter pages for up to date info <https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

Just in case this reaches you before the event: **Derbyshire Archaeology Day 2021** will be held online over Friday afternoon and Saturday morning **5th/6th Feb**. It is free (but they ask for a donation to a fund to restore the tomb of Thomas Bateman). You need to register for each half day to obtain the access link. Great range of talks. Details and registration at: <https://chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk/shows/derbyshire-archaeology-day.aspx#.YAq6dXpiZO>

The **National Lottery Heritage Fund** has a huge mine of online heritage resources to enjoy from home that they keep adding to (so you can keep revisiting it for new ideas). They have activities, links to online exhibitions (including some **Manchester Museum from home**) and a huge range of podcasts etc <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/stories/how-enjoy-heritage-home>
Manchester Museum: <https://www.mmfromhome.com/>

If you like maps, you can explore **Digital Maps of the Ancient World** <https://digitalmapsoftheancientworld.com/>

The **National Archives** have made lots of items available online during COVID closures of their Kew premises. Best approached through their Discovery page http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=new_year_31_december_2020&utm_content=2021-01-10

Latest releases include a group of **papers from the Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office**, predominantly covering the final months of John Major's government in 1997.

Closer to home, **The British Newspaper Archive**, a partnership between the British Library and *Find My Past* to digitise the British Library's vast collection of newspapers, has digitised the **Birkenhead News** (up to 1920) – more information can be found on their website. But apparently you can only access it three times for free. After that, there is a charge.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/birkenhead-news>

Birmingham Museums online collections

<https://dams.birminghammuseums.org.uk/asset-bank/action/browseItems?categoryId=4&categoryTypeId=2>

Salisbury Cathedral – The cathedral that moved: animation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QyM5rVORzQ&feature=youtu.be>

JSTOR Daily – **Fake stone and the Georgian ladies who made it**

<https://daily.jstor.org/fake-stone-and-the-georgian-ladies-who-made-it/>

Stromness Museum – **Neolithic maceheads in Orkney**

<https://www.stromnessmuseum.org.uk/whatson/online/neolithic-maceheads-orkney>

Prehistoric Society YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwLOL2rkyfBqL8TjB-_ygUQ

MOLA – **Prittlewell: princely burial**

<https://prittlewellprincelyburial.org/>

MOLA – Significant **Anglo-Saxon cemetery** and settlement found in Overstone, Northamptonshire

<https://www.mola.org.uk/blog/significant-anglo-saxon-cemetery-and-settlement-found-overstone-northamptonshire>

Town and Country Planning Association – online journal archive

<https://archive.tcpa.org.uk/>

Paul Mellon Centre – Art & the country house

<http://www.artandthecountryhouse.com/>

Public Statues and Sculptures Association (new)

<https://pssauk.org/>

Apollo magazine – Short history of door handles

<https://www.apollo-magazine.com/history-door-handle-designs/>

Paul Mellon Centre – **Ceramics in Britain, 1750-now** – recordings of 5 x 30 min lectures

<https://www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/whats-on/plc-ceramics-in-britain>

Natural Sciences Collections Association – Top 10 blogs from 2020

<https://natsca.blog/2020/12/24/top-10-blogs-of-2020/>

Royal Horticultural Society – **Thomas Fairchild: the first city gardener?**

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/digital-collections/city-gardener>

MoLA – **Pleasure gardens**

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london/Pleasure-gardens-hub>

RHS Lindley Library online collections - Codlings, Costards and Biffins: our **apple growing heritage**

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/digital-collections/codlings-costards-biffins>

Internet Archaeology, V. 55 - **Digital Public Archaeology at Must Farm: A Critical Assessment of Social Media Use for Archaeological Engagement**, by Christopher Wakefield

<https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue55/9/index.html>

Bristol & Avon Archaeology journal – online access to volumes 11 (1993) to 27 (2016/17)

<https://bristolandavonarchaeology.org.uk/journals/>

IHR – **Analysing historical settlement** (webinar recording)

<https://www.history.ac.uk/whats/ihr-events-archive/analysing-historic-settlement>

London Metropolitan Archive – **Women in construction** (film)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kU4u4Lb3iPw>

TED Talk – **The treadmills dark and twisted past**

https://www.ted.com/talks/conor_heffernan_the_treadmill_s_dark_and_twisted_past

The Foundling Museum – online talk archive

<https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/talks/>

****A challenge!**** RAF Museum – Lancaster Challenge – **celebrating 80 years since the first Lancaster flight** – challenge closes 17 May 2021

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/virtual-events/the-lancaster-challenge-2021/the-lancaster-challenge-details.aspx>

The latest issue of Current Archaeology has links to these museums and exhibitions:

Kyoto National Museum, Japan. <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/kyoto-national-museum>

La Brea Tar Pits, Los Angeles, USA (these are the tar pits that have outstanding preservation of animal remains from the last Ice Age). <https://tarpits.org/virtual-field-trip>

Virtual Underwater Museum, Malta <https://underwatermalta.org> photography by divers of drowned wrecks

And boats on top of the water: Kajak!, Maine, USA: **the creation and use of kayaks** www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum/exhibits/2020/kayak-exhibition.html

And keeping up the maritime theme, Vikingir, Oslo, Norway: **Viking period exhibits** from the University of Oslo's Historical Museum

<https://www.khm.uio.no/english/>

Down to terra firma in UK: **Jane Austen Museum**, Chawton: <https://janeaustens.house/jane-austens-house-from-home>

Historical(ish) programmes on freeview TV

Starting on Sunday 10th January on BBC 4 from 7 – 8pm: **The Victorian Slum** (5 programmes). I think this is a repeat of a series originally shown on BBC2.

‘A group of 21st-century people move into a Victorian tenement that has been painstakingly brought back to life in the heart of London’s East End’. All five programmes available on BBC iplayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07zd454>

For enthusiasts of Industrial Heritage, BBC 4 are repeating a 12-part series from BBC2 on several weekdays 7.00 – 7.30pm **Fred Dibnah’s made in Britain** NB there are lots of additional Fred Dibnah series available online Just search for ‘BBC TV Fred Dibnah’! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00fn977/episodes/guide>

Lucy Worsley’s Royal Palace Secrets seems to be a single BBC programme <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qznd>

From Monday 04th Jan BBC4 from 8.00 – 9.00pm: **Secrets of the Museum (V & A)** is a repeat of the 6-part series previously shown on BBC2 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000f1xp>

Not strictly historical, but the **Natural History Museum: World of Wonder** is a new four part series of one hour programmes Thursdays 7th , 14th , 21st & 28th January 2021 Channel 5 from 8.00 -9.00pm <https://www.channel5.com/show/natural-history-museum-world-of-wonder/>

Immediately followed on Channel 5 starting Thursday 14th Jan by a new three part series of walks along Hadrian’s Wall with Robson Green from 8.00 – 9.00pm. First (14th Jan) was **Hadrian’s Wall with Robson Green**, 2nd (on 21st Jan) is **Robson Green: Walking coast to coast** (3rd not advertised yet) <https://www.channel5.com/show/hadrians-wall-with-robson-green/>

And if you like landscapes, you may like walking programmes such as BBC 4’s series of **Winter Walks** through historic landscapes of Yorkshire & Cumbria. These are Slow TV and very evocative <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qd6w/episodes/guide>

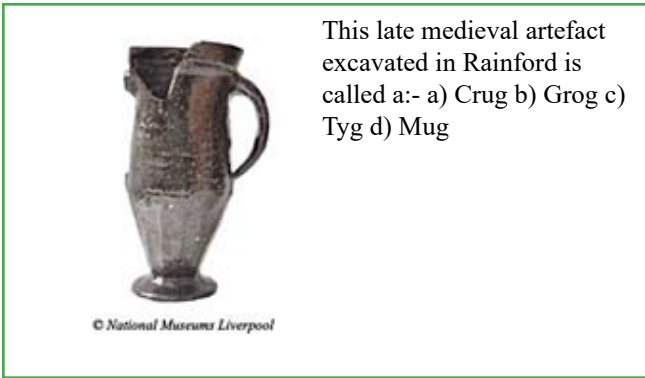
And an 8-part series of half-hour programmes that started on Weds 06th Jan ITV 8.30- 9.00pm **Cornwall and Devon walks with Julia Bradbury** (inland as well as famous coastline areas) <https://www.itv.com/presscentre/ep1week1/cornwall-and-devon-walks-julia-bradbury>

Railway journeys often feature landscapes and historic sites. Channel 5 has a new (third) six-part series **The World’s most Scenic Railways** on Friday evenings 9.00 – 10.00 pm that started on 08th Jan. All series available at: <https://www.channel5.com/show/worlds-most-scenic-railway-journeys/>

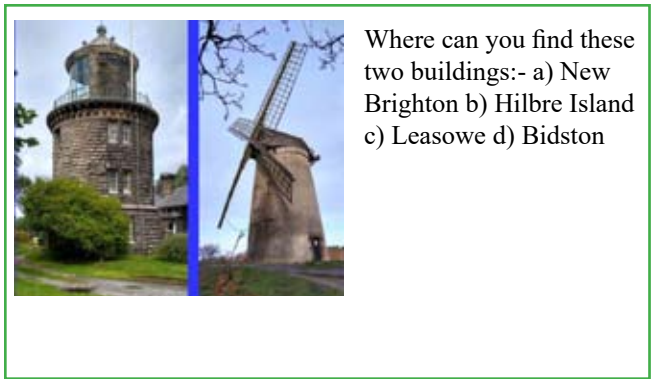
And Yesterday (Freeview 26) is full of nostalgic repeats of sitcoms & documentaries including Michael Portillo’s Great British Railway Journeys which included on Sat 16th Jan at 7.00 pm **Following in the footsteps of Victorian archaeologists at Hadrian’s Wall**

And a new series with Tim Dunn starting on Tuesday 19th Jan **The Architecture the Railways Built**

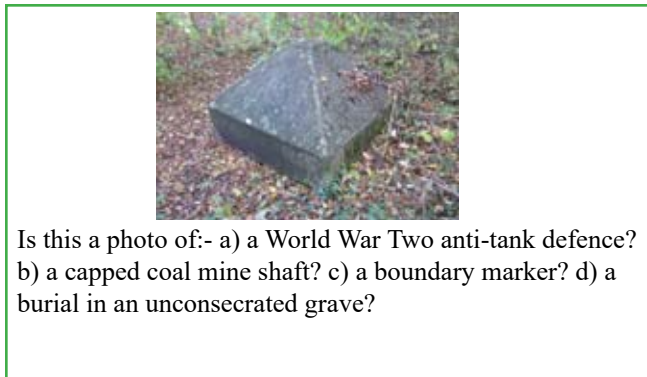
Sue Stallibrass



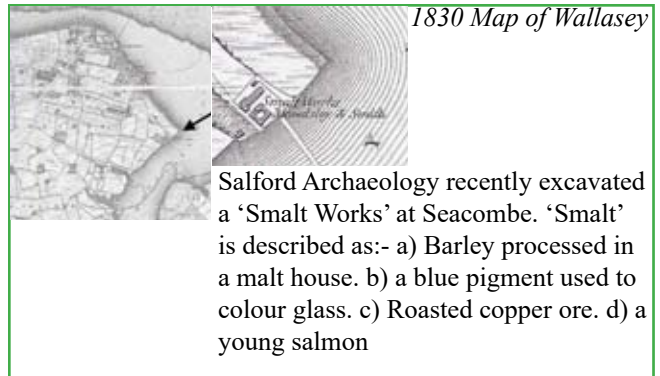
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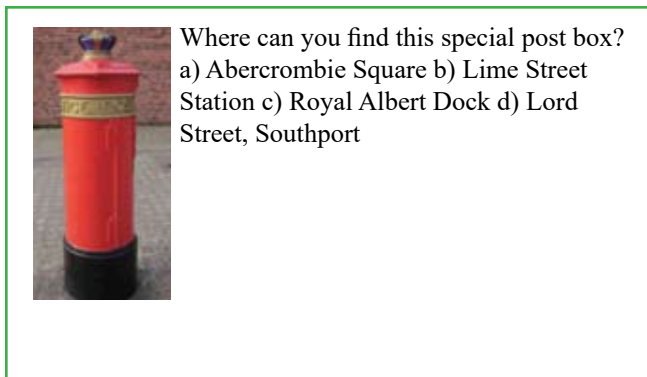
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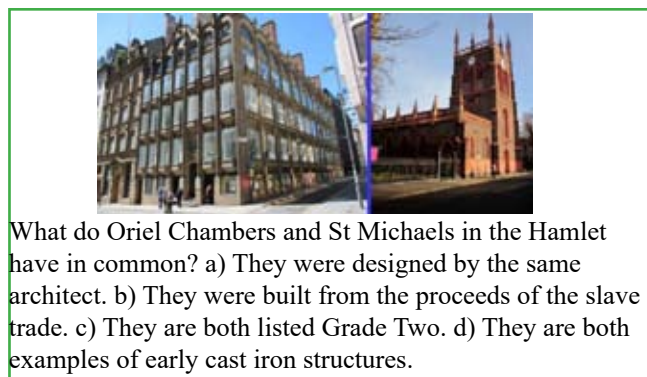
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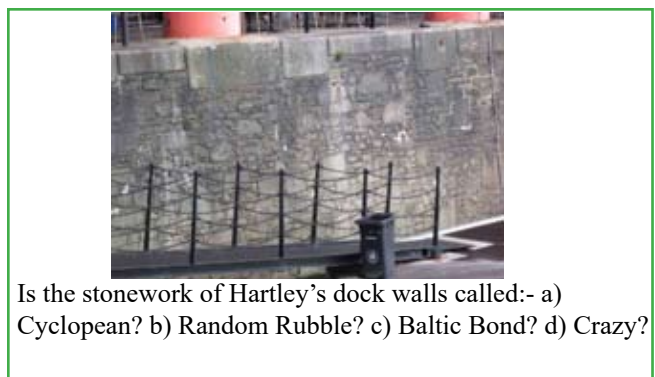
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7



8



Foundations of 18th century copper works Excavation at Stanley Bank, St Helens in 2018

Copper was used to make ‘Manillas’. Are they:- a) a type of envelope? b) a decorative item exported to the Philippines? c) a lockable collar worn by slaves? d) a jewellery item used as currency in West Africa?

9



In which borough will you find this terrace of worker's houses? a) Knowsley b) Liverpool c) Sefton d) St Helens e) Wirral

10



During 2020 Mark Adams has been excavating at Princes Half Tide Dock. The depth of the entrance lock is 33 feet seen carved on this massive masonry block.

Is the rock:- a) Sandstone from Weston Quarry, Runcorn? b) Granite from the Mountains of Mourne, Northern Ireland? c) Limestone from Portland in Dorset? d) Granite from Creetown, South West Scotland?

11



Part of the area (arrowed) was excavated in 2005. Was it the site of:- a) the pumping station for the dock's hydraulic system? b) the boiler house and pump house for draining the railway tunnel? c) the steam powered generating station for the Overhead Railway? d) a canning factory?

12

And finally..... A Question about Kerbstones?

At the beginning of the last lecture I made a plea for short Newsletter articles on local discoveries made during lockdown. Here is my offering.

Cressington and Grassendale Residential Parks were laid out adjacent to the River Mersey in the mid 1840s in what was then the rural fringe of South Liverpool. If you walk through both Parks today and look at the kerbstones you will quickly discover a variety of engraved symbols and what appear to be ‘initials’. Below are a few examples:



Many more designs can be found by those interested. I believe such kerbstone markings are common elsewhere in ‘Victorian’ Liverpool. Last year I also spotted some in Argyl Street, Birkenhead. What do they represent (I have my own ideas but won't spoil it for you)? If you want to join the debate a good place to start is:

<https://www.geol Soc.org.uk/Geoscientist/Archive/June-2013/Kerbstone-conundrum>

Theories (not necessarily on a postcard - an e-mail will suffice) to the Editor.

Dave Roberts



From the Chair

Welcome to the second News Bulletin of 2021. The days are getting longer and the overall outlook is also a bit brighter. The Programme Working Group has been considering options for possible summer visits and the Autumn programme which will be discussed at the next Council meeting and then presented for consideration at the members evening on the 16th of April (see the events section below). We still need further contributions of 10 – 15 minutes be it a PowerPoint presentation or showing a historical / archaeological object in order to make the members evening a success. Contact me at: roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk if you want to take part.

This issue also includes the first of what we hope will become a regular feature in future News Bulletins. On page 4 you will find a photo of Shotwick Church with a short narrative. If you have an interesting photo, perhaps a site of interest or one taken a field trip please submit it with a description to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in a forthcoming issue.

Roy Forshaw

Spring 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 18th March 7.30 P.M. Claire Christie, Headland Archaeology: Triton Knoll, Lincolnshire

The Triton Knoll Electrical System (TKES) is a cable route which runs for about 60km from the East Lincolnshire Coast to Boston. Headland Archaeology conducted a number of investigations along the route which revealed that the current farmland was once rich coastal marshland with significant evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity, particularly salt production. Some of the sites also contained evidence for settlement and subsistence, ephemeral structures, cooking ovens and field boundaries. Artefactual and environmental analysis during the post-excavation assessment process has identified a number of exciting discoveries.

Thursday 15th April 7.30 P.M. Members Evening. *We have decided to postpone the 2021 AGM until Thursday 16th September as it is only a matter of months since we held the 2020 AGM in December. It has been suggested that we hold a Members evening which will give us the opportunity to try something a little less formal using Zoom. Members are invited to give a short (say 5- 10 minutes) presentation on a Site or Object of interest. A Photo or slides can be submitted in advance so contributors don't have to worry too much about operating the technology. Please let Roy know as soon as possible if you wish to contribute: roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk*

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
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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

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

2021 Subscriptions

MAS Subscriptions fell due on 1st January. Renewal rates for 2021 are: Ordinary £15, Concession £10 (retired, unwaged, student over 18), Junior £2, Family £18, Institutional £25. Please remember to add £3 if you want to receive the Newsletter by post.

If possible please pay direct to the bank. The Society bank account details are:

Account: Merseyside Archaeological Society

Bank: HSBC, 99-101 Lord Street, Liverpool L2 6PG

Sort Code: 40-29-08

Account No: 11098705

Reference: MAS Subs

Please send any forms and cheques to: Vanessa Oakden, Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool, L3 1DG
Email address: Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Archaeology is Everywhere

“You lot could shut this job down, couldn't you?” – archaeologists often hear this from workers on construction sites. There are many misconceptions about archaeological fieldwork and the belief that the unexpected discovery of buried remains can stymie a development is a particularly stubborn one. In reality, within well-managed projects, archaeological implications are considered from day one. With appropriate consultation with archaeological experts within local authority planning departments, developers can follow a tried and trusted sequence of investigations to minimise the likelihood of such unexpected discoveries. (Quoted from the booklet ‘Life on Marr: Archaeological Remains Along the Manchester Airport Relief Road’ accessed 19/12/2020 at: https://diggreatermanchester.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/gmpr26_life-on-marr-1.pdf



The Shakespeare North Theatre in Prescot is a construction site where archaeological potential was realised at an early stage of planning, thanks to the intervention of members of MAS. Following preliminary work by Rob Philpott and Mark Adams, Salford Archeology carried out a comprehensive investigation and hopefully we will one day be able to learn about the results.

I listened to the recent BBC Radio 4 episode of *The Infinite Monkey Cage* entitled ‘Neanderthals’. Archaeologist Rebecca Wragg Sykes and palaeontologist Tori Herridge, joined Brian Cox, Robin Ince and comedian Alan Davies (star of *QI* on TV). The broadcast mixed humour with some serious science - we were told that nearly all Europeans have 2% Neanderthal DNA and *Homo neanderthalensis* made stone tools as skilfully as *Homo Sapiens*. Rebecca explained that the tell-tale characteristics of worked stone can be similar to that seen in ‘knapping chocolate’. The best question came from Alan Davies who asked ‘Did the Neanderthals die out as the result of a pandemic?’. Tori’s answer was that although we have ‘lots and lots and lots’ of frozen remains of Woolly Mammoths from the permafrost, we do not have a frozen Neanderthal, only skeletal remains that do not show any evidence of disease. *The Infinite Monkey Cage* is available on BBC iPlayer.

Maurice Handley

The Portable Antiquities Scheme and Merseyside – A summary of MAS lecture 18th February 2021

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a DCMS funded project aimed at the voluntary recording of archaeological finds discovered by members of the public. The Scheme covers England and Wales and is managed by the British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru, National Museum Wales, in partnership with local museums and organizations. The PAS began in 1997 to support the implementation of the *Treasure Act 1996*, which set new provisions for Treasure items. Although working with Treasure is a significant element for the PAS, it focuses on recording all archaeological material, including non-Treasure items, which can be archaeologically more valuable than Treasure.

The Scheme is fronted by Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), who are also supported by Finds Liaison Assistants and volunteers. FLOs primarily engage with members of the public and record their discoveries on to a publicly accessible online database (www.finds.org.uk/database), which is used for academic research and general interest purposes alike. The PAS database is currently one of a kind and has a wealth of artefacts ranging from Bronze Age hoards to Post Medieval buckles. Most discoveries are made by metal detector users, and so the number of metallic finds vastly outnumbers non-metallic discoveries. Many finds are also reported by individuals out walking, gardening, or going about their daily work. In July



2020, the PAS recorded its 1.5 millionth object which was a Medieval lead papal bulla/seal of Pope Innocent III (IV) which was discovered in Shropshire. To date, 674 objects have been reported to the PAS from Merseyside which range from Neolithic flint tools to Victorian leather shoes. A number of standout finds have been reported from Merseyside which emphasises the archaeological wealth of the county. A few of the more notable finds are included in the above image, from top left:

Neolithic polished axehead (LVPL-882DAE) from Wirral, dating to c.3500-2100 BC. First discovered in 1916 after being brought up by a plough it was donated to the Museum of Liverpool in the 1960s. The stone has been identified as porcellanite and it is thought it may have been sourced from County Antrim where a Neolithic quarry at the foot of Tievebulliagh Mountain is located. Similar examples of Tievebulliagh porcellanite can be seen in the Malone Hoard containing nineteen polished stone axes, now at Ulster Museum. This is the only example of porcellanite recorded on the PAS database.

Roman Wirral brooch (LVPL-BFF3DB) from Sefton, dating to c.AD 100-200. Brooches of this type were first discovered in Wirral, hence their name. A study by Robert Philpott in 1999 suggests that these brooches likely originated from Wirral. Since the publication of this study, the number of Wirral brooches discovered has dramatically increased. Using PAS data and plotting a distribution map, it is clear that Philpott's initial theories are indeed correct. This demonstrates how useful PAS data can be in supporting archaeological research.

Gold half noble of Henry IV (LVPL-004154) from St. Helens, dating to AD 1412-1413. Gold half nobles are uncommon reported finds with only 88 so far recorded on the PAS database. This coin is interesting because it is particularly rare, and the only half noble of Henry IV recorded on the database. What is most interesting about this coin is that on the obverse side, there is no annulet positioned next to the trefoil on the side of the ship, which suggests a variant of the type, perhaps previously unknown.

Late Medieval to Post Medieval figurine/toy (LVPL-115092) from Sefton, dating to c.AD 1100-1700. An interesting figure with a humanoid body but a head that consists of three dice. The function of the object is uncertain, but it is likely a toy from a group of similar figurines that were perhaps used in a game that involved being knocked over and scoring the value of the dice, like shy cocks or skittles. It is a curious object that was no doubt locally made.

Heather Beeton

Finds Liaison Officer – Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside

Prehistoric Lunt Meadows with University of Chester and Museum of Liverpool

Wednesday 7 April 2021 6pm - 7pm

The discovery of Stone Age settlements and artefacts at Lunt Meadows Nature Reserve in 2012 gives a fascinating glimpse into life as far back as 9,000 years ago. Join the Lunt Meadows Project Officers as they chat to senior archaeologists from the University of Chester and National Museums Liverpool about life in the Mesolithic.

A free digital event thanks to National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Presenting Mesolithic and Modern Life Project. To book your place visit <https://www.lancswt.org.uk/events/2021-04-07-prehistoric-lunt-meadows-university-chester-and-museum-liverpool>

Port Sunlight Drawings.

Port Sunlight Village Trust has led a project to digitise Port Sunlight drawings under the “Drawn Together” project funded by the National Lotteries Heritage Fund. These records are now online and are grouped into the categories - *Civil engineering – Housing – Monuments – Non residential and Site plans*. The content is sourced from four archives:

Unilever Art, Archives and Records Management (UARM)
Wirral Archives
Bolton Libraries and Museum Services
National Museums Liverpool. (NML)

The following is a link to the website. <https://drawntogether.portsunlightvillage.com>

Ruthin Gaol.

The Society went to Ruthin a few years ago and visited the Gaol. Built in 1868 the Pentonville block used 30% of its space for Heritage in the form of a museum explaining the history of the museum and 70% for archive services. Funding permitting there is a proposal for the archive area to be reduced and some of Denbighshire’s Heritage Collection currently in store to be put on display ready for 2025. The prison cells will be used for an immersive cell experience and there will also be a large multi-function room.

Roy Forshaw



A Photo Opportunity

Shotwick Village is located on the west side of the Wirral peninsula. It is some two miles inland today but prior to the silting up of the River Dee and land reclamation the churchyard wall was lapped by the waves of the Dee. Shotwick, like numerous places along the Dee was a small port where cargoes were transhipped into smaller boats to proceed on to Chester. The village still consists of a small collection of houses on a narrow lane that originally led down the river and to the ford across to Flint. The site of the moated manor house survives a short distance from the later building. A short walk away is Shotwick Castle whose earthworks still survive. This Castle guarded the ford to Wales and the passage of ships on their way to Chester.

Shotwick church has been much altered over the years but dates back to at least early Norman times. The tower was built around 1500 and as well as a place of worship the church was also the venue for the ecclesiastical court. Henry VIII made it obligatory to make and keep in order shooting butts for archery practice and the men of the village were obliged to practice on Sundays and Holy Days. Inside the church porch can be seen the marks in the sandstone walls forming the back of two benches where arrows were sharpened presumably prior to practice.

Roy Forshaw



Online resources

Ongoing live talk series (Jan/Feb to April/June):

1. The **Nene Valley Archaeological Trust** is holding its 2021 conference as a series of five monthly live online talks from February to June **Bronze Age Britain: Migration, Ritual and Everyday Life** Talks are free but donations (it is a charity) welcome. Talks are by leading national experts and you will need to book a place. BA research themes, Must Farm pile dwelling, isotopes & aDNA, burial customs, Stonehenge

<https://www.nenevalleyarchaeology.co.uk/2021-conference-bronze-age-britain>

2 **The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership** is holding webinars every fortnight on Wednesday afternoons at 3-4 p.m. from February to April. You need to register to be sent the link, but they are free.

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Default.aspx?CategoryTitle=westmorland-dales-heritage-talks&SubsiteTitle=westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership>

Talks become available afterwards as recordings. Started 3rd Feb **Great Asby Scar survey**. 17th Feb David Johnson: **excavating an early lime kiln** (a sow kiln) at Pendragon castle, 3rd March **Tree planting**, 17th March **Routes through the Dales** 31st March **Geology of the Dales**, 4th April **Gamelands Stone circle**

3 **The Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group (YVBSG)** (Jan – March) are holding monthly evening lectures on the third Thursday of each month. This means that they clash with MAS lectures! But you can get the best of both worlds as the YVBSG talks are made available as YouTube videos. January's talk on the possible **reuse of ships' timbers** in vernacular architecture is available now. February's talk is on **cowhouses & smallholdings in a miner-farmer landscape** around Castle Bolton area, and 18th March will be on **Vernacular architectural features in Upper Wharfedale**. Further details and video links:

<https://www.yvbsg.org.uk/events.html>

One-off online free conferences

1 **Saturday 6th March** by the Prehistoric Society **Barrows of the Yorkshire Wolds: Prehistory, Inspiration and Legacy**

Talks include antiquarian histories of investigation; the latest research on the barrow makers, their origins, funerary rites and grave goods; re-use in the early medieval period; new methods of recording & analysing funerary monuments, and public, creative value. An all day event, free to attend but registration required

http://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events/event/barrows_of_the_yorkshire_wolds_prehistory_inspiration_and_legacy/

2 **Saturday 10th April DARGANFOD – DISCOVERY: a celebration of new archaeological research in Wales** a biennial conference hosted by the Cambrian Archaeological Society. Twelve talks about new research in Wales and the Marches (including Dodleston Castle, Cheshire). For a list of all talks, summaries and timetable see the conference webpage. Free, but need to register at:

<https://cambrians.org.uk/darganfod-discovery-conference-saturday-10th-april-2021/>

Past talks:

1 Recordings of all of the talks from the **Derbyshire Archaeology Day** (4th/5th Feb) are available on their Youtube channel (one video for each day).

4th Feb: excavations of a **post-med pottery** ('**Martincamp flasks**') **production** site at Ticknall, digging the **medieval centre of Derby**, repairs to **barrows after a moorland fire**, excavations of a **timber weir** or river revetment, a **Roman vicus dig** (Navio).

5th Feb: **survey of a stone quarry & mine**, quirks of **timber buildings**, **excavating a windmill**, and a historical, documentary, mapping and field visit **study of monastic granges**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TsXHSV2iZo>

There are articles about some of these projects, and various others, in the annual **Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire and the Peak District** (ACID) magazine, available to download at

<https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/archaeology/acid-magazine>

2 **The CBA Yorkshire Autumn Showcase 2020** (CBA = Council for British Archaeology) talks covered a wide range of mainly community projects involving geophysics or excavation, advice about how to make successful funding bids for community projects (by a successful community group), & 'coping with Covid' support. All are available as videos at <http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/videos/>

3 **CBA Yorkshire Video Archive**. <http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/videos/> The first three Fireside chats from Series One 2020 have been added.

The first chat is particularly topical with the release of the Netflix film ... 'The Dig' This is a dramatic representation of the 1939 Sutton Hoo Excavation.

In our video production Eric Houlder describes the **post war excavations at Sutton Hoo** when he was a photographer and a site supervisor.

<http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/fireside-chats-one/>

Follow-ups from MAS evening talks:

1 Feb 2021 Information on **Triton Knoll multi-period excavations** (the subject of March 18th MAS lecture by Claire Christie of Headland Archaeology) includes a short film from the public outreach sessions, a leaflet about what was found, and high resolution images of the display boards. <https://www.tritonknoll.co.uk/archaeological-mitigation/>

2 Jan 2021 If you want to know more about the **coastal archaeology project CITIZAN** (Coastal & InterTidal Zone Archaeology Network) after Chris Kolonko's excellent MAS talk on coastal defences in January (see January's newsletter for a report and some links), you might be interested in their armchair archaeology blog <https://citizan.org.uk/blog/2020/May/01/armchair-archaeology-citizan/>

And if you are able to get out during/after lockdown, there are two self-guided low tide walks in Merseyside: Liverpool docks & Liverbirds <https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/liverpool-bay-liverpool-docks/> and New Brighton <https://citizan.org.uk/low-tide-trails/liverpool-bay-new-brighton/>

Other online resources:

Current Archaeology – January heritage from home A wealth of resources, some of which featured in last month's MAS newsletter <https://www.archaeology.co.uk/articles/heritage-from-home-january.htm>

Current Archaeology – February Heritage from home
<https://www.archaeology.co.uk/articles/heritage-from-home/heritage-from-home-february.htm>

Historic Environment Scotland - A guide to Climate Change impacts
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=843d0c97-d3f4-4510-acd3-aadf0118bf82>

Forestry and Land Scotland – A song in stone: exploring Scotland's Neolithic rock art
<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/biodiversity-and-conservation/historic-environment-conservation/investigation/ormaig-neolithic-art>

Offa's Dyke Collaboratory - How much work was involved in building the Dykes of the Mercian frontier? Part 1, by Keith Ray
<https://offaswatsdyke.wordpress.com/2021/01/29/how-much-work-was-involved-in-building-the-dykes-of-the-mercian-frontier-part-1/>

That Jorvik Viking thing – new podcast series
<https://open.spotify.com/show/3nCMdF9VtiyqfnaZGfsJml>

UCL Archaeology South-East – podcast
<https://soundcloud.com/uclarchaeologysouth-east>

The National Archive – **Manorial Documents Register** – new county content added
<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust – **Searching for Shakespeare**: the artefacts of New Place 3D
<https://searchingforshakespeare.co.uk/>

Matthew Champion - Which Marks? Those marks... The case for Ritual Protection in Medieval Graffiti
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV9i_mtTyuE

Group for Education in Museums - Self-led school trails: A toolkit for developing trails with impact

<https://gem.org.uk/resource/self-led-school-trails-a-toolkit-for-developing-trails-with-impact/>

Society of Museum Archaeology – Communicating archaeology: case studies in the use of, and engagement with, archaeological collections

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n4_CVGr4DKu-gzgKmt2ysymKfdLKMnvS/view

Museum of London - LGBTQ+ History Month stories and events

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london/whats-on/exhibitions/lgbt-history-month?series=LGBTQ%20month>

Royal Museums Greenwich - LGBTQ+ histories and events

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/LGBT>

National Gallery - LGBT History Month events and exhibitions

<https://www.npg.org.uk/visit/lgbt-history-month>

Brompton Cemetery Conservation Project – Queerly departed – videos added twice weekly profiling individuals of interest

<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery/whats-on-in-brompton-cemetery/queerly-departed>

London Historic Buildings trust – New **virtual building tours**

<https://www.londonhistoricbuildings.org.uk/index.php/2020/12/16/new-virtual-tours-reveal-london-historic-buildings-trust-projects-inside-and-out/>

SAHGB - Architectural Tourism in a Time of Pandemic

<https://www.sahgb.org.uk/features/architectural-tourism>

SAHGB – Post-war designed landscapes: heritage values and forgotten spaces [blog post]

<https://www.sahgb.org.uk/features/post-war-landscapes-in-britain-heritage-values-and-forgotten-everyday-landscapes>

Royal Horticultural Society – Gardening by the book: a history of gardening in 12 books

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/digital-collections/gardening-by-the-book>

National Trust: archaeologist's blog

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blogs/archaeologists-blog>

Colchester & Ipswich Museums – Decolonisation + democratisation – webinar series recordings

<https://cimuseums.org.uk/dandd/>

BBC Radio4/BBC Sounds – Start the week: Empire and class, shaping Britain

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000s1rh>

Apollo Magazine - The British government thinks archaeology doesn't matter. It couldn't be more wrong

<https://www.apollo-magazine.com/archaeology-funding-cut-uk-government/>

Major new project to study countryside rights of way Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) the project is called In All Our Footsteps: Tracking, Mapping and Experiencing Rights of Way in Post-War Britain, and will run for three years from 2021 to 2024. Not sure if/how people can get involved

<https://www.universitynewshq.com/university-news/major-new-project-to-study-countryside-rights-of-way/>

And more info on Clare Hickman's blog In All Our Footsteps: Tracking, Mapping and Experiencing **Rights of Way in Post-War Britain**

<https://drclarehickman.wordpress.com/footsteps/>

SAHGB - Post-War Designed Landscapes — 'Elegant and Simple Solutions' to 'Down to Earth Problems': The Landscape Architecture of Michael Brown and Preben Jakobsen

<https://www.sahgb.org.uk/features/post-war-landscapes-in-britain-the-landscape-architecture-of-michael-brown-and-preben-jakobsen>

British Museum blog - Inside 'The Dig': how the star-studded film squares with reality of Sutton Hoo

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/inside-the-dig-how-star-studded-film-squares-with-reality-of-sutton-hoo/>

TV programmes on catch-up

New series:

1 The story of Welsh Art. Three one-hour programmes. Starts Monday 1st March 9.00 – 10.00 pm BBC Wales & BBC4 First episode looks at prehistoric burial chamber rock art, the bronze Age Mold cape. 2nd looks at landscape in art, 3rd is 20th Century art

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000st2j/episodes/guide>

2 The Great British Dig: History in your back garden. Starts Weds 17th Feb More4 (Freeview 18) 9.00 – 10.00. Fronted by Hugh Dennis. First episode = Benwell Roman fort, Newcastle; 2nd = Early Medieval burials in Masham, Yorks; 3rd = a lost Norman priory in Nottingham. A pilot episode was made last year in Maidstone <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-great-british-dig-history-in-your-garden/on-demand/70176-001>

3 Raiders of the Lost Past with Janina Ramirez. Starts Friday 19th Feb, 9 – 10pm BBC2, Three one-hour programmes, Series 1 and 2 both available at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0008569/episodes/guide>

New one-off programme: Stonehenge BBC2 Friday 12th Feb. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000s5xm> Plus an illustrated news article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56029203>

Repeated series:

Digging for Britain (various series) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b014hl0d>

Secrets of Orkney: Britain's Ancient Capital three one-hour episodes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b087vh70>

Rome, a History of the Eternal City BBC4 three one-hour programmes focusing on religion in Rome, presented by Simon Sebag Montefiore. Apologies if these have disappeared by the time the newsletter comes out.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01p6vtb/episodes/player>

Sue Stallibrass



From the Chair

The lighter evenings and vaccination program creates a better summer outlook for us individually and as a society. The MAS council has been discussing various ways of re-establishing evening lectures and running a summer programme. We need to know how you feel, so we will put a time aside after the April meeting to have an open discussion about how we provide lectures and field trips, post restrictions.

Zoom Lectures to continue.

The first change to routine is that we will endeavour to continue a summer programme of zoom lectures to replace the fieldtrips that are not currently possible.

Summer Visits

Subject to the lifting of restrictions we will have local visits later in the summer, easily accessed by public transport. Possibly outdoors rather than an internal venue to enable social distancing.

Zoom meetings and Friends Meeting House meetings.

Here I assume is where your thoughts will be most useful either discussed at the meeting or by e mail or letter. Zoom meetings have been a success. We are able to attract speakers from distance as they do not have to physically attend and attendances have been up. Possibly more members are available for a home based presentation so do we want to change the way we used to meet? Some of the options available when all restrictions are lifted are:

1. Continue with Zoom meetings, possibly December / January, whilst other times we have Meeting House lectures.

Advantage is that we do not have to come into Liverpool when the weather could be at its worst and there are no Christmas revellers.

Disadvantage is that there are less meetings where we meet up together.

2. Return to full Meeting House lectures.

Advantage is we will meet up together as before lockdown.

Disadvantage is we must travel into Liverpool during bad weather.

3. Continue as we have been, holding all meetings virtually.

Advantage is that we reach out to more of the membership.

Disadvantage is that we do not reach membership without internet and we lose the social experience of meeting one another.

There may be other options you want to consider so the floor will be open for discussion after our Members meeting on the 15th April.

Roy Forshaw

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
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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

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Spring 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 15th April 7.30 P.M. Members Evening.

Short talks as follows:

Gina Muskett. – 'Roman' figurine in the University museum.

Howard Harris – Heritage of Court Hey Park.

Maurice Handley – Merseyside Wartime Defences

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

Obituaries



Bob Parry

Bob regularly attended indoor MAS meetings at the Quaker Meeting House and was also a member of Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society and Liverpool History Society. He had a background in the building trade and ran a joinery business in Smithdown Road.



Carole Brooksbank

We regret to report that Carole passed away last year. She lived in Widnes and was a good supporter of MAS, helping with the Childwall graveyard survey and regularly attending meetings and field trips.

They will be sadly missed.

How Old? Speculation on Early Salt Production in Lancashire

I'll admit to an ulterior motive in inviting Claire Christie to talk about the Triton Knoll project last month. The project sounded interesting anyway, but I've been speculating about the origins of salt production in South-West Lancashire/Merseyside for a couple of years now and wanted some ideas about what to look for and how to go about looking for it. I hope everyone found it as interesting as I did.

This began with the rediscovery of the Roman fort at Burscough (it turns out it was first found in the 1880s, but more of that in a future newsletter perhaps) and I began to wonder why it was there. Armies don't plonk 3 ha. forts in the middle of nowhere for no good reason, they're placed to control someone or something, even if that's just the passage between two places. The trouble with Burscough is that it's not really on the way to anywhere or in an obviously resource rich area; it lies off the main north-south and east-west routes and in an area with little known native settlement, access to minerals or much else. There is perhaps a road leading north from Burscough towards the fort at Kirkham, north of the Ribble. The road may even extend south to Liverpool and the Portway at Speke, though both are contentious. There's almost certainly a route east to Wigan where it joins the main network, any routes to the west are a mystery. In short Burscough seems to have been set in a bit of a backwater (see <http://www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/lancspages.html>).

In terms of resources there's little there at first glance. There's good agricultural land in places, for example the Clieve Hills round Ormskirk, and evidence of settlement at Lathom, and possibly Burscough Marina, but much of the surrounding area would have been occupied by wetlands of little apparent economic value to the Roman army. So why was the fort there? Wetlands have lots of seasonal resources potentially exploited by rural populations; these include excellent summer grazing for livestock away from arable. Saltmarsh is particularly good for fattening livestock and providing 'sweet' meat. In addition migratory wildfowl, fish, reeds, rushes etc for roofing, flooring, animal bedding and peat for fuel (Sue Stallibrass pers. comm.). However, many of these may have been of only limited interest to the Roman army. Was control of salt production at least part of the reason for the fort's location?

The Evidence

The development of salt production along the Mersey and Dee rivers during the 17th and 18th centuries is relatively well known and Roy Forshaw has given us some excellent talks on that (see also Forshaw 2010), but the discovery of Burscough made me curious about our area's potential for medieval and earlier salt extraction. The salt marshes and wetlands along the Wirral, Sefton and Fylde coasts bear a striking similarity to the Lincolnshire landscape where Roman and Iron Age salterns have been excavated and studied since the 1970s and 80s (e.g. Chowne et al 2001; Morris & Lane 2002). Was there similar potential in South-West Lancashire? David Cranstone produced a survey for English Heritage of the Solway Coast, and later for Morecambe Bay. Cranstone apparently found the evidence very ephemeral and not like the 'red hills', famous on the Lincolnshire coast (Sue Stallibrass, pers. comm.). Middleton et al (2013, 185) considered the potential of the wetlands inland of the Mersey to Ribble coast for medieval and earlier salt production and noted the lack of physical evidence.

Annakin-Smith (2012) provides documentary evidence of coastal sea-salt production in Flintshire, Cheshire and on the Wirral at Lower Kinnerton, Hilbre and Burton; whilst Taylor (1975) gives evidence of salt production in Amounderness. Further north, salt extraction is also known from the Solway Firth (Annakin-Smith 2012); though generally the focus of most studies has been on the Cheshire 'wiches' (e.g. Nevell 2015).

However, a brief review of primary and secondary sources shows that there is some evidence for medieval salt production along South-West Lancashire's coast, including in the area around Burscough, often on a significant scale. For example, in 1561 in Hesketh-with-Becconsall about 4 km to the north of Burscough, Robert Cowdrey, a tenant of Sir Thomas Hesketh, complained that '...having made a little cabin on the sand by the river Asland (now known as the River Douglas) to well salt in the same,' he had been assaulted and his saltcote destroyed. From the rest of the text it is clear that other tenants were involved in salt-making and another dispute of 1565 mentions 'a stack of salt sand containing 500 cart loads to the value of £5'. VCH Hesketh-with-Becconsall <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol6/pp111-114>. The quantities imply something more than a cottage industry.

This isn't the only example, at Crossens, North Meols in 1204 'Roger gave to Sawley Abbey an acre at Ratho for a saltpit, with rights of pasture and turbary' <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol3/pp230-236> (though modern Ratho is near Edinburgh, so this may be an error; however William de Cowdray's charters mention a saltpit at Crossens in the early 13th century (ibid)) and there are other examples of salt workings or placenames indicting saltworking at Pilling, Formby, Lytham and elsewhere (See also Taylor 1975).

This indicates a significant industry within c. 10 km of Burscough, perhaps easily accessible by water from the fort; the river Douglas and the Eller Brook pass close to the fort and may have been navigable (Middleton et al 2013 Fig 50), and would have given access to salt workings at Hesketh and the surrounding area.

However, this leads on to the question of where the coastline was when the fort at Burscough was occupied? The instability of the coast between the Mersey and the Ribble is well documented. If it was significantly further east or west than at present during the Roman period, how would this have affected the potential for salt production?

Griffiths et al (2007) give a detailed assessment of changes to anchorages in the Dee and a similar study would be relevant for the Ribble estuary, though they note that there are ‘...few dated index points for sea-level during the late Iron Age and Roman periods in Britain, making it difficult to assess the position of the ancient coastline, and the impacts on havens, tidal regimes, and on lower courses of rivers at this period’ (see also Tooley 1990).

Despite many assessments of the geomorphology of the Sefton coast, the exact nature and position of the coastline during the Roman period seems to remain poorly understood. Its position is known to have fluctuated significantly during the post-glacial period, a final period of high sea-level being indicated by dune slack deposits at Formby dated to c. 2300 BP, i.e. c. 300 BC, though the dunes appear to have formed a protective barrier preventing the sea accessing the area to the rear (Cowell 2008, 27). However, it remains possible that lower lying areas to the east of the dunes were, if not permanently inundated by the sea, either periodically flooded and/or occupied by salt marsh. When seen in this context the position of the Burscough fort perhaps makes more strategic sense. The map below would place it closer to the coast than it now is and in an area with access to significant potential for salt extraction.

What are the next steps? Should we be looking for Lancashire VCP?

The 2006 research framework noted extensive evidence of salt production in the northwest but focused on Cheshire, ignoring Lancashire, and the update does the same <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>. Perhaps we need to reconsider and begin to start looking? If we do, what should we be looking for and how should we look? The notes below are my initial thoughts, but I’m sure that they could be extended.

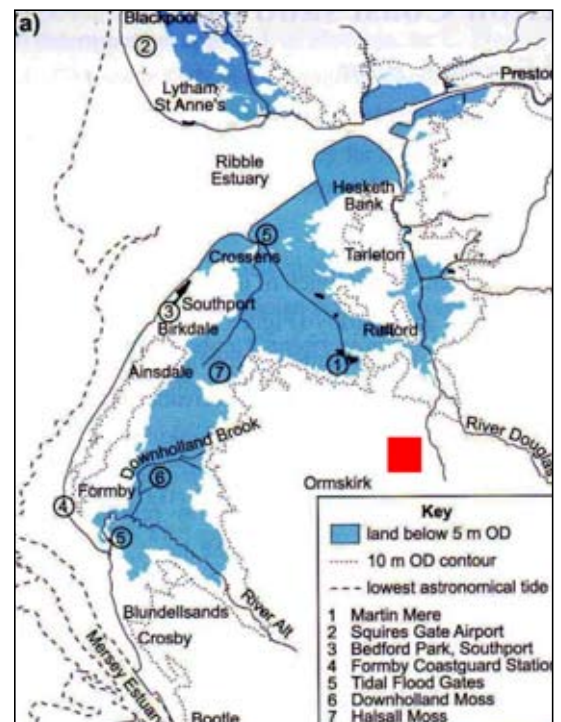
The outline above is just my first review of the primary documentary evidence by trawling the National Archives catalogue. There’s likely to be more, and I’ll continue the search. However, one thing that has already struck me is how patchy the evidence is. For example, there seems to be little from the Frodsham/Helsby area despite that area’s topographical similarity to the Dee and Ribble estuaries; why? One possibility is that the salt industries on the Dee and Wirral were early victims of the success of the Cheshire salt industry, they didn’t survive long enough to be documented. The only indication of salt extraction is ‘half a salthouse’ listed in the Domesday entry for Frodsham, though this may have been merely an indication of manorial ownership of property located in Middlewich or Northwich.

There has been archaeological fieldwork in the Frodsham Marshes; evaluation in advance of construction of the waste disposal facility found two very interesting peat deposits relating to different periods of major sea level changes (Sue Stallibrass, pers. comm.). This doesn’t necessarily show evidence of people’s activities but does indicate that the marshes have been in existence in some form for thousands of years. The presence of a monastic grange at Ince also indicates that the ecclesiastical landowners were interested in having an agricultural settlement in the marshes during the medieval period. Any surviving abbey accounts may be worth examining.

The front cover of Historic England (2018) ‘Pre-industrial Salterns: Introductions to Heritage Assets’ which features an aerial photograph of saltern mounds suggests that a review of both aerial photographs and lidar data would also be worthwhile and that will probably be my next stage.

Fieldwork would be more difficult, though many of the Lincolnshire salterns have been discovered in section alongside drainage channels, a rapid survey may pay dividends and we should be looking in more of those; the Hesketh area seems one to target given the documentary evidence above. Maybe one for a post Covid walk?

Large pipeline/cable routes such as Triton Knoll are relatively sparse in our area, but they do happen and when they do they provide a great opportunity to look at long, and deep, excavations; evaluation trenches in lowlying coastal areas shouldn’t stop at apparent deposits of geological deposits.



Lower lying areas to the east of the dune network and the approximate location of the fort in red (after Pye & Blott 2010)

Pre-industrial Salterns

Introductions to Heritage Assets



Other Research Questions

Finally thinking about this has led me to other questions.

Many of the forts in the Liverpool Bay area were capable of being rapidly supplied by sea (e.g. Chester, Lancaster, Kirkham (Wessex Archaeology 2005, 2006), was Burscough similar? Was the river Douglas/Asland navigable during the Roman occupation?

Have there been any finds of anchors from the Liverpool Bay area? There seem to be few records, a Graeco-Roman lead anchor -stock of 2nd or 1st century BC date, from a sea-going vessel, which was recovered from the tip of the Llyn peninsula in north Wales is the closest I've found (Griffiths et al 2007), though it is likely that any finds of stone anchors would be easily missed. How should we look for these?

Finds of VCP (a type of Late Prehistoric and Roman pottery commonly associated with the salt trade) from excavated sites in the region may need to be reassessed. For example, at Irby (Philpott & Adams 2010) 479 sherds of Cheshire Stoney VCP were found. Thin section analysis suggested that most or all of it was from the Middlewich/Nantwich area. A smaller assemblage of 90 sherds from Brook House Farm (Cowell & Philpott 2000, 44) used a similar fabric but was not examined in thin section. Brook House Farm lies north of the Mersey, beyond the normal distribution of Cheshire VCP, could its VCP be from further to the north or west? Was Irby accessing salt traded by water from Lancashire? Is that why we see little later documentary evidence for salt extraction on the Wirral?

Summary

Ninety percent of what I've written here is wild, perhaps even fanciful, speculation and none of it is proof of Romano-British salt extraction in the area, or of the real reason for the presence of the fort at Burscough, though it seems possible that the medieval industry was more extensive than is generally recognised. If that is the case, analogy with areas such as Lincolnshire suggests the industry is likely to have deeper roots and that we should at least be looking.

If anyone has further comments or suggestions please drop me an email at mhadams@rsk.co.uk. I'd be pleased to receive them.

Many thanks to Sue Stallibrass for commenting on an earlier draft of this note and providing some very useful additional information.

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Mark Adams

COURT HEY PARK, L16 3NA HERITAGE TRAIL – Edging stones

The main drive into the park is lined with stones forming the edge of the roadway which are in fact railway sleepers shown by the bolt holes and fishplate indentations. They were once part of the Liverpool to Manchester Railway used by the George Stephenson's Rocket train in 1827. In 1878 the railway was refurbished, and the sleepers were obtained by Robertson Gladstone who was Deputy Chairman and major shareholder of the railway company. There were difficulties in delivering the sleepers because the stones had to be unloaded from wagons by hand and dropped onto the embankment for removal to Gladstone's mansion in the park.



Howard Harris

Online resources

Online talks

Westmorland Dales landscape partnership heritage talks: This is a reminder that recordings of past talks in the current series can be accessed online at:

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Default.aspx?CategoryTitle=westmorland-dales-heritage-talks&SubsiteTitle=westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership>

New talk: 14th April at 3pm the last talk of the series will be on **Gamelands Stone Circle** near Orton. A 30 minute talk presented by Dr Douglas Mitcham, Community Heritage Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Free. BOOKING required at the same Westmorland Dales website.

Windy Harbour, near Poulton le Fylde, **Lancs.** Fraser Brown, the director of the major excavations of a **Mesolithic and very early Neolithic** series of sites alongside a palaeochannel, gave a talk in March to the Society of Antiquaries of London (SAL) entitled 'Margin Walking'. Video here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdW1zR19oxD3JAPmkYWdU5g?view_as=subscriber

NB talk kicks off 5 mins into recording

You will find a whole host of recorded **SAL lectures** on the same website.

The two research seminars on Windy Harbour held in February were also recorded (these have expert panel discussions) and are available at: <https://oxfordarchaeology.com/research-publication/windy-harbour-research-seminar>

Online resources

York Archaeological Trust – Viking images: a selection of the 40,000 Viking-age artefacts discovered by York Archaeological Trust during the Coppergate excavations in York between 1976-81: <https://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/viking-images>

the **Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group** produce interesting newsletters. Back copies can be downloaded for free from their website (up to Dec 2019): <http://www.cvbg.co.uk/newsletter.html>

Sue Stallibrass



From the Chair

Throughout Summer and Autumn.

The days are lengthening and socialising is increasing and the Council and Events sub-group has been working hard looking at ways to present archaeology to you over the Summer and Autumn.

Thank you to everyone who replied to our question as to how we move forward during 2021. All the comments were constructive and gave us the opportunity to understand your views including personal concerns. The programming sub-group has looked at all the responses and has some options to present to the main Council this month. I will then be in a position to announce the path we are taking up to the start of 2022 in the June newsletter.

We are continuing our Zoom meetings through the Summer and the May lecture is announced in this newsletter. The Zoom invite will be for a 7.15 start as the social chat before the commencement of the talks at the last meeting was enjoyed by all. What we have decided to do is have a 15 minute “natter time” so if you want to catch up with others log on anytime after 7.15. The formal talk will start at 7.30.

Roy Forshaw

Spring 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.

Thursday 20th May 7.15 p.m (see above) Laurence Hayes, Principal Consultant at RSK. Title t.b.c.

Summary: ‘In 2016 archaeologists from RSK Environment excavated a Bronze and Iron Age field system near Evesham, Worcestershire. Unexpectedly an Early Bronze Age Beaker burial was found within the field system, and as well as the pottery beaker a stone archer’s bracer or wristguard was found. The talk will also cover how the place the bracer was manufactured was worked out.....it wasn’t Worcestershire!’

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.

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
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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

New Calderstones Book

MAS has published a brand new book about the Calderstones: <https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/the-calderstones.html>

Described as: *'the most complex decorated carved megalithic art assemblage in southern Britain'* by George Nash in 2007, the six stones of the Calderstones monuments have fascinated people for centuries. Their story of monumental construction, use and reuse, movement and re-movement, is a fascinating record of people's connections to them. Using historical sources, such as mapping and historic printed illustrations to track their history and modern scientific techniques to explore their art, this book investigates the Calderstones from their neolithic roots 5,000 years ago to their modern conservation in 2018. Exploring their long history reveals how special these stones are!

Buy your copy by contacting the MAS publications secretary via the website: <https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/contact-us.html>
Members of MAS are entitled to a 25% discount, which is £6, plus £2.50 P&P if postage is required.

You can also order online from Museum of Liverpool: <https://shop.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/collections/liverpool-books> or buy at The Reader bookshop at Calderstones Park.

Excavation at Albert Dock

The Museum of Liverpool's archaeology team is leading a community excavation on Piermaster's Green, Royal Albert Dock (adjacent to the Piermaster's House) this summer. The project will investigate the site of two of the four houses which stood on the site, numbers 7 and 8 Albert Parade. These were the homes of dock masters and their families before they were damaged during the Liverpool Blitz of the Second World War. The residences were built in 1852, six years after the opening of the Royal Albert Dock 175 years ago.

Ahead of the dig forensic archaeology students from Liverpool John Moores University have been doing geophysical survey on the site. The students learned a variety of survey techniques on site including resistivity and ground penetrating radar and the preliminary results look promising.

We will be digging with the help of volunteers from the local community on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week from 26 May until 30 July. Find out what we get up to as you pass by on your daily walk, via social media using the hashtag #DockHouseDig, and on the Museum of Liverpool website. We will be sharing what we discover throughout the project and if you have any memories of the houses or the docks we would love to hear those too!

Vanessa Oakden



Blast from the past: Photo ‘competition’

Readers of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA)’s British Archaeology (BA) magazine may have seen an article by Susan Greaney about the excavations led by Geoff Wainwright 50 years ago at the Mount Pleasant henge. A letter in the subsequent BA issue contained a photo of the 1970 digging team. Mike Pitts (BA Editor) has put it up on his blog together with names of some of us (plus some interesting info about the three big prehistoric henge excavations that Wainwright directed: Durrington Walls, Marden & Mount Pleasant).



Apart from myself, MAS members may recognise some other familiar faces including Robina McNeil (sitting on the grass, second from left, long fringe and pale shirt) and George Smith (at the back of the core Wainwright digging team perched on the car that Geoff is leaning on (far left of photo)).

<https://mikepitts.wordpress.com/2021/04/14/do-you-recognise-these-archaeologists>

Do any other MAS members have digging team photos they would like to share so that we can try to guess who is who? It took me a long time to find myself even though I knew I was there! Here’s a clue- I didn’t have grey hair in 1970...

Sue Stallibrass

Online resources

Future events:

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) has a lot of online resources including some upcoming free events (BUT PLEASE BOOK) on place names, coastal erosion and maps of Wales:

<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/>

6 May: Join us for the next in our new series of free online talks, ‘The List of Historic Place Names - four years on!’ by Dr James January-McCann on 6 May @ 5pm.

This talk will be a Welsh-language event with simultaneous translation provided.

<https://ti.to/digital-past/the-list-of-historic-place-names-four-years-on>

12 May: CHERISH eConference Coastal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change (CCHCC). This international conference will showcase the vulnerability of coastal environments to climate change and how these may be impacted by future changes. Papers will cover a range of topics around the theme of understanding and managing coastal heritage under threat.

<https://fitwise.eventsair.com/cmspreview/2021cherish-project-e-conference/programme>

12-14 May: Carto Cymru – The Wales Map Symposium 2021. Held in partnership with the National Library of Wales and the Historic Towns Trust. Surveying the Streets: this year’s symposium will focus on how towns and cities have been mapped through time and how this can help us to understand the history and processes of urban growth.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/l/gcnlw/t-odqyol>

12th May 2021, 16:00-16:45 The medieval ‘agricultural revolution’: A bioarchaeological perspective *Prof Helena Hamerow, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford.*

The early medieval ‘agricultural revolution’ saw the advent of new, extensive forms of cereal farming that has left a clear mark on the landscape today. This talk presents some of the results of the project ‘Feeding Anglo-Saxon England’ (FeedSax), which addresses an ongoing debate regarding the origins and impact of open field farming in England. Free online talk, but registration required at

https://www.crowdcast.io/e/medieval_agricultural_revolution/register

15th May 2021: Council for British Archaeology North West (CBANW) Spring Meeting to be held online based on the theme of “Archaeology in Lockdown”. Following the AGM, there will be talks by several groups and societies in the area (Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester & Cheshire) talking about the effect lockdown has had in respect to their organisation and what they were able to do in response. As usual, details will be advertised at the last minute, but keep checking the blog at <https://archaeologynorthwest.wordpress.com/> and social media for details.

Twitter @cbanorthwest sorry I have no idea about Facebook!

NB if you are interested in blogging, there is a free course available through the CBANW wordpress website (provided above)

19th – 28th June: Chester Heritage Festival. Save the date and keep checking the website for details of this summer’s online events <https://chester.com/listing/chester-heritage-festival/>

17th July – 1st August: CBA (Council for British Archaeology) Festival of Archaeology

You can sign up to receive information about events or keep checking online for new information

https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/?dm_i=10MV,7BP1V,MNXPP3,TPSC9,1

Recordings of previous online talks and events:

The Cambrian Archaeology Associations’ excellent ‘Darganfod’ day of talks on 10th April is now available as recordings.

Darganfod: celebration of new archaeological research in Wales, held online. Ranged in period: Preseli bluestones & Waun Mawn & Stonehenge stone circles, excavations at Moel y Gaer & Caerau hillforts, GIS of hillforts, Neolithic & Iron Age mortuary practices, Abermagwr Roman fort, Llangorse Viking Age crannog, pre-Norman focal zones, Dodleston castle (Cheshire), 13th Century ceramic aquamaniles

<https://cambrians.org.uk/talks/darganfod-discovery-2021-talks/>

And if you want a full hour of Mike Parker Pearson on Waun Mawr, Preseli bluestones & Stonehenge, the BBC2 programme Stonehenge: The lost circle revealed (broadcast on BBC2 Feb 12th 2021) is available for the next 9 months at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000s5xm/stonehenge-the-lost-circle-revealed>

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – **Botany, trade & empire** – conference recordings

<https://www.kew.org/science/engage/get-involved/conferences/botany-trade-empire>

Cornwall Heritage Trust – **Turf cutting for fuel on Bodmin Moor:** Peter Herring – webinar recording

<https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/turf-cutting-for-fuel-on-bodmin-moor-by-peter-herring-story-cafe-now-available-on-youtube/>

Vernacular Architecture Group: Winter 2021 conference recordings - **Houses and The Hearth Tax in Britain**

<https://www.vag.org.uk/conferences.htm>

Other online resources:

Paleolithic and Mesolithic archaeology: the Pal Network now has a **North Norfolk virtual field trip** created as part of the Pathways to Ancient Britain research project. This is a virtual tour of important Pleistocene deposits on Norfolk coast including Happisburgh Palaeolithic people’s footprints (at ~800,000 – 900,000 years old, they make our Formby footprints look like they were made yesterday!) and a video about the beetle evidence for climate and environment.

The virtual field trip has been created using Google Earth Projects. Within this project you will find text, videos and images, plus links to further resources such as peer-reviewed articles.

<https://www.pabproject.org/research-projects/happisburgh/north-norfolk-coast-virtual-field-trip/>

English Heritage: **Insect pests in historic houses and museums** (poster, new ed.)

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/learn/conservation/science/serpentine/insect-pests-historic-houses-poster.pdf>

Mariner's Mirror podcast – The most important book in **maritime history? Lloyds Register**

<https://snr.org.uk/the-mariners-mirror-podcast/the-most-important-book-in-maritime-history-lloyds-register/>

Scotland's Archaeology Strategy: celebrating 5 years

<http://archaeologystrategy.scot/celebrating-five-year-of-scotlands-archaeology-strategy/>

IHR: On history blog – **Recycling and upcycling waste in the late medieval urban economy**

<https://blog.history.ac.uk/2021/02/recycling-and-upcycling-waste-in-the-late-medieval-urban-economy/>

SAHGB blog - **Post-War designed landscapes: 'A green place in which to live and work'**: Landscapes by Sylvia Crowe and Janet Jack

<https://www.sahgb.org.uk/features/postwarlandscape2>

Public Statues and Sculptures Association – **UK Public statues of women database**

<https://pssauk.org/women/>

National Trust – **Medieval archaeology adventures at Fountains Abbey**

<https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/archaeology-pack-3-fountains-abbey.pdf>

V&A – **A-Z of ceramics**

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/a-z-of-ceramics>

Women's Engineering Society – Centenary trail map

<https://www.wes.org.uk/centenary-map>

Sue Stallibrass



From the Chair

I am writing this over a warm bank holiday weekend and I hope everyone has managed to enjoy the good weather and if able had some time outside.

How 2021 will be for the Society

It has been a busy time for the MAS council organising the summer and autumn events. The responses we received from you about how to move forward with the 2021 programme were most helpful and we have prepared activities that will hopefully accommodate all views. There will be a series of summer local walks and these will be supplemented beforehand by Zoom talks giving background information presented on our traditional Thursday evening.

First visit of the year

The first walk is Crosby Battery, blitz beach and prehistoric forest which has already been covered by a lecture earlier in the year so needs no introduction. The walk will take place on Monday 21st June and details can be found in the separate handout accompanying this Newsletter.

Meetings

Meetings in the Autumn will alternate between zoom meetings and lectures at the Friends Meeting House subject to the Government guidelines at the time and FMH room availability. The first get together meeting will be the September AGM. Papers will be issued before the meeting but just so you can think ahead there will be at least two places available on the Council as Chris Wood and David Scott are retiring. We will also be looking for a new Secretary and a Newsletter editor. The Council is to continue meeting via Zoom so there will be no commitment to travel should you want to join us quarterly. A place on Council can be what you want to make it. You can help by contributing fresh ideas or get more involved if you want to help with the organisation of the Society.

Collaborations with other organisations

Discussions are also at early stages with two organisations who are looking at working with MAS. Big Heritage want to promote archaeology and contacted MAS to see how we could assist. We are talking with Dean Paton who is the Director of Big Heritage to look at options such as funding a prize or bursary for archaeological research. It is very early stages so will let you know as and when we reach an agreement and in what form the assistance will take.

The Groundwork Trust has also contacted us to look at ways MAS can help with the archaeology along the Sankey Canal corridor the Trust works on. We are at an early stage but there may be the possibility of some research or practical work excavating or recording. I was involved with the Sankey Canal Restoration Society for some years and we excavated a number of canal lock sites including cottages and culverts.

Roy Forshaw

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
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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

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Summer Meetings 2021

Thursday 17th June from 7.15 p.m (the formal meeting will start at 7.30) Mark Adams from RSK. 'Early Salt-Making in Merseyside & South Lancashire'

Abstract: Building upon my speculative article in a recent newsletter, I'll be looking a little more deeply into the documentary and other evidence for medieval and earlier salt production in Merseyside and South Lancashire. Was it an industry? If it was, where was it taking place? What strategies should archaeologists adopt to look for any physical evidence, and what should we be looking for?

A Summary of the Summer programme is below. Further details will be announced in future Newsletters.

Date	Speaker/Leader	Title	Venue
17th June	Mark Adams	Early Salt-Making in Merseyside & South Lancashire?	ZOOM
21 June	Sue Stallibrass & Roy Forshaw	Guided Walk	Crosby. See handout
13 July	Vanessa Oakden & Liz Stewart	Site Visit	Piermaster's House dig. Details in separate article below.
15th July	Roy Forshaw	Archaeology of Hilbre island	ZOOM
??? August TBC	Roy Forshaw	Guided Walk	Hilbre Island
19 August	Rob Philpott	Archaeology of Norton Priory	ZOOM
16 September	Gina Muskett	'Athena Parthenos in Liverpool' and AGM	Quaker Meeting House TBC following consultation with QMH
25 September	Rob Philpott	Site Visit	Norton Priory Excavation

For those meetings held 'virtually' via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand. There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Talks will last 40 mins starting at 7.30. You will be able to log on from 7.15.
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.
7. There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M> .

Piermaster's Green Community Excavation

Join the Museum of Liverpool and CITIZAN North on Tuesday the 13th of July for a guided Low Tide Trail around Liverpool's historic docks beginning at the Piermaster's Green community excavation. Find out how the dig has been progressing and take a look at some of the finds before taking a look at how the docks and Liverpool grew over time and investigate some of the hidden clues that survive in the landscape today which help tell the story of this development. The socially distanced walk will take an hour and a half to two hours to complete. Contact Vanessa Oakden, Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmusuems.org.uk or leave a message on 01514784260 to book your place. Due to social distancing places are limited to 8 people however the walk will be run twice in the day if demand is high.

New Calderstones Book

MAS has published a brand new book about the Calderstones: <https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/the-calderstones.html>

Described as: *'the most complex decorated carved megalithic art assemblage in southern Britain'* by George Nash in 2007, the six stones of the Calderstones monument have fascinated people for centuries. Their story of monumental construction, use and reuse, movement and re-movement, is a fascinating record of people's connections to them. Using historical sources, such as mapping and historic printed illustrations to track their history and modern scientific techniques to explore their art, this book investigates the Calderstones from their neolithic roots 5,000 years ago to their modern conservation in 2018. Exploring their long history reveals how special these stones are!

Buy your copy by contacting the MAS publications secretary via the website: <https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/contact-us.html>
Members of MAS are entitled to a 25% discount, which is £6, plus £2.50 P&P if postage is required.

You can also order online from Museum of Liverpool: <https://shop.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/collections/liverpool-books> or buy at The Reader bookshop at Calderstones Park.

Childwall All Saints Churchyard Survey - Phase 1

As part of its contribution to the 2020 Festival of Archaeology the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) ran a competition for organisations involved in the recording of churchyards. The top 3 entries would have their project published for 'free' on the prestigious Historic England funded 'Discovering England's Burial Sites' (DEBS) hosted by the University of York. MAS entered the long-running Childwall project and won one of the prizes. The project data has now been published and can be accessed via the web-site at: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/debs_he_2018/.

This is the first part of a two part article which will briefly describe what the project has achieved to date. The second part will follow later in the Summer and will describe how we intend to use the data gathered to gain a better understanding of the churchyard's development since the 17th century and how the information can be used in other local churchyards to gain an insight into the evolution of different monument types.



A visit from the Young Archaeologists' Club in 2011

In April 2009, the Department of Continuing Education at Liverpool University, in conjunction with Merseyside Archaeological Society, ran a course on the techniques involved in surveying graveyards. The course was based at All Saints Church, Childwall and was attended by about a dozen people. The course and the venue proved so interesting that the Society started a project to record the whole of the churchyard. The project loosely followed Harold Mytum's process for recording graveyards (Mytum 2000). This involved plotting every grave onto a plan, photographing each monument and recording the detail of the gravestone or memorial. Data gathered included a description of each memorial (dimensions, monument type, monument condition, construction materials, design motifs etc.) and the detail of those remembered/commemorated (date of birth/death, age, family relationships, profession and place of abode where given). A precise transcription of the epitaph was also entered onto the recording sheet together with a sketch of the monument which included further information not requested on the form.

It soon became apparent that graveyard recording was not as straightforward as one might assume. It demands high levels of concentration and commitment at all stages. Childwall churchyard has monuments dating back to the 17th century. The oldest dateable monument



Some of the more common monuments in the older part of the churchyard. From left to right: chest tomb, ledger and headstone. The headstone illustrates an interesting method of commemorating the deceased.

is dated 1620. There may be more ancient ones there without a date, as the most ancient often only bore the initials of the deceased. In many cases the local red sandstone used for the majority of the older monuments has weathered quite badly. It was therefore not unusual for some monuments to take a day or more to record, particularly where the epitaph ran to dozens of lines commemorating several generations of a family. Many different techniques were devised by team members to help bring faint inscriptions to life.

Although the churchyard is beautifully kept the team also had to try and access monuments located under bushes and trees, some of which proved quite difficult to record. One Museum volunteer spent hours recording under rhododendron bushes only to emerge saying 'there's loads more under there I can't get to'. The vagaries of the English weather did not help either. It is not long before biro goes through wet paper making recording difficult in bad weather. The work is also seasonal. It only takes a couple of hours for the fingers to refuse to write legibly in colder weather. It is to the great credit of the two students from John Moores University who joined the recording team between November and January 2016/17 for enduring the harshest of weather. Twice daily trips to the pub across the road (for coffee!) did not entirely keep the cold at bay.



The Case family vault

Phase 1 of the monument recording process ran for a total of 8 years (there was a 3 year gap in recording between 2013 and late 2016) and concluded in 2020 with the digital conversion of the data relating to 838 monuments and 3594 individuals that you will currently find on the DEBS site. This was all the data that had been digitised by the project at July 2020 and represents the majority of the memorials which date prior to 1860. The preparation process took longer than expected. One of the conditions of the prize was that the data must be converted for submission by September 2020. Thankfully, this deadline was flexible.

Although, from the outset, the project had loosely followed Harold Mytum's process referred to above we had not included many of the data attributes required by the conversion exercise. This involved assigning codes to many of the data items gathered on a spread sheet followed by a cleansing and normalisation of the data. Additional tasks included dating each memorial by reference to information contained in the epitaph. At this stage we found that there were many inconsistencies between data entered on the forms and the digitised data, particularly around family relationships and in the transcription of the epitaph, which involved much cross-checking with the recording forms and in some cases further visits to the churchyard were required to validate information recorded. In addition, the photography of the memorials had fallen behind the recording process and approximately 400 of the 838 memorials did not have photographs. The digital planning of the churchyard had also lapsed and at July 2020 the plan consisted of 17 pieces of A4 paper. This was subsequently condensed to 3 sheets of A3 paper to produce an acceptable location plan of the 838 monuments in the churchyard. The data conversion exercise was eventually completed in January 2021 when the completed spread sheet was submitted to DEBS along with the location plan and a complete set of photographs. This marked the end of Phase 1.

However, that is not quite the end of the story and Phase 2 is now well underway. By July 2020 we had recorded a total of 2,249 memorials and the details of 7,656 individuals although much of the data had not been digitised. During the locked down months earlier this year most of the remaining data was added to the spread sheet. We have also now recorded the 20 or so ledgers,

previously hidden under the rhododendrons which have now been cut back. The monuments inside the church are still to be recorded. The majority of the 19th and early 20th century monuments have now been photographed and we have started categorising and dating the more common monuments from that period i.e. the crosses and headstones. The data gathered in this process will be important when we start looking at monuments in other churchyards, more of which over the coming months. The digital planning of the churchyard has also now resumed. The main focus of the team is to have the complete dataset ready for publication on DEBS by the end of 2021. At present, this is going well and provided we are not distracted too much by other research activities, the deadline is achievable.

Finally, I would like to thank All Saints, Childwall for its permission to carry out the survey and the many volunteers who have contributed their valuable time to help with the project. These include MAS members who have assisted with recording and NML staff and volunteers who initiated the digitisation process. I would particularly like to thank Diana Goodier, Joyce Hughes and the late David Kennils who have supported the project over many years. I would also like to pass on my gratitude to Toby Pillatt of the University of York for his guidance and assistance with the data conversion exercise.



David Kennils recording a ledger in 2010

Reference:

Mytum, H. 2000 *Recording and Analysing Graveyards - Practical Handbook in Archaeology 15*, CBA in association with English Heritage

A couple of hints on how to use the DEBS site:

- 1) From the link in the 1st paragraph above you can search on a variety of criteria. Try entering 'Wainwright' in the Person search. This will give you about 20 'hits' for Childwall as it is a common name. If you then click one of the entries under DEBS ID it will give you more detailed information including PDF links to a photo of the memorial and the location plan.
- 2) If you go down a level using the Site List you can access the Childwall data directly. From here you can download various datasets into Excel which you can then re-format.

Dave Roberts

How I got into Archaeology - Mark Adams

As told to Maurice Handley

In last month's talk about the Beaker Burial at Aldington, the speaker, Laurence Hayes, mentioned that he initially thought that the stone wrist bracer (an archer's wrist guard) was a whetstone. 'Whet' is an old word for a sharpening stone and this led to a fascinating flurry of emails between Mark Adams and myself. We began discussing how we got in to archaeology and the following is an edited version of Mark's story.(MH)

I got interested in the past at the age of four via the usual dinosaurs and a picture in a Ladybird book of King Alfred burning the cakes; for some reason that one really stuck with me and I can remember it like it was 10 mins ago . After that history was pretty much the only thing I was interested in at school. Age 10 or 11 I pestered my parents about visiting an excavation of a barrow at Grindale, East Yorkshire by Terry Manby (<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/details.xhtml?recordId=3034816&recordType=Journal>) up the road from where we lived. I can't remember the exact details but it ended up with me being let loose with a trowel in one corner of the trench; I hope I didn't do too much damage. Main memory is the varied 'characters' in the site hut and picking up flints from the field, Terry helped me ID them. I volunteered on a few excavations after that, most notably West Heselton (http://www.landscaperesearchcentre.org/AA%20Tier%201%20Primary%20Headings/heselton_parish_project.htm) with Dominic Powlesland when I was 16-18. Dad was a stonemason and he used to buy his sand from the adjacent stone quarry, I was working

for him as a labourer, saw the dig so again I pestered to be let on. Dad's always been 'eccentric' and I can still remember the look on Dominic's face when Dad asked him if a pair of parallel Bronze Age ditches could be a UFO landing strip! Being the archetypal teenager I just turned red and wanted to merge into the quarry.

Aged 17 Careers Advice talked me out of pursuing archaeology on the grounds that there were hardly any paid jobs, the jobs that there were were poorly paid, and I needed Latin to do a degree (I went to a Comp so was never taught that). I learned later that the last bit was BS, the first 2 have changed for the better in the last 30 years or so but at the time were probably reasonable advice, maybe still are. I went to Cornwall, trained as a mining engineer, didn't fit that, so came to Liverpool to study geology, that didn't really fit either so I started digging again at Runnymede Bridge in summer 1984.

Mark is a keen climber and told of a whetstone quarry on the path up to the Idwal Slabs, a popular climb in Snowdonia. We discussed various ways of getting to North Wales including cycling and hitching lifts. (MH)

I used to hitch regularly in the early 80s and when I acquired a car started giving people lifts, but you rarely see it now. One lift played a small part in starting me off in archaeology. I couldn't get a paid summer job that year so was on my way down to Runnymede Bridge to volunteer on the excavation there over the summer, I got chatting to one guy who picked me up about where I was going and it turned out that he was the County Archaeologist for somewhere, I think it was for Derbyshire which would mean it was probably John Barnatt. Up to that point I didn't think paid jobs in archaeology were accessible to people like me (it was at a time when popular perception was still that it was for the 'posh' such as Mortimer Wheeler and Glyn Daniel; people with another income to fall back on), but the conversation that followed gave me the first inkling that it may actually be possible to make a career out of it. Anyway, when I came back up to Liverpool I switched from single honours geology to combined with archaeology and gave it a go.

It turned out the training in mining engineering wasn't wasted, I learned to survey, something not taught well if at all on a lot of archaeology degrees in the early 80s and that got me my first paid job in summer 1985. The rest as they say is history.

Maurice Handley

Online Resources

Upcoming online events

Monday 28th June 5.00 – 6.00 om **Talk**. Professor Sarah Rees Jones. **A Northern Way? The Archbishops of York and Urban Development in the Fourteenth Century** Free but please book
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/142231350799>

The lecture will explore the administrative records of the Archbishops of York as a source for the history of Beverley, Hexham, Hull, Ripon, Southwell, and York during the fourteenth century. This was a century of crisis: of famine, war, and plague. The talk will explore the reactions of the archbishops to these events through their interventions in some of the major urban communities of the northern province.

Sarah Rees Jones is Professor of Medieval History at the University of York. A former contributor to the Historic Towns Atlas for the City of York, she is currently the Principal Investigator on an AHRC-funded project that is seeking to make the vast administrative archive of the medieval Archbishops of York accessible to the public online. The project is called 'The Northern Way: The Archbishops of York and the North of England, 1304–1405', and you can find out more here: <https://www.york.ac.uk/history/research/northern-way/>

2nd & 3rd July 2021. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the **Study Group for Roman Pottery** (SGRP) and they are celebrating with a two-day **conference**. It will be the very first virtual SGRP conference via Zoom hosted by Newcastle University. The conference is FREE and open to both members and non-members. To see the full programme and book your place at the conference: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/study-group-for-roman-pottery-50th-anniversary-conference-tickets-144748850709>

20th July **Museum of Liverpool Twitter conference**: theme = Science & Archaeology (highlighting STEM aspects ie Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). hashtag #ArchMoL21 on Twitter
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/festival-of-archaeology/archaeoscience-can-you-dig-it-yes-you-can>

17th July – 1st August The **Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Festival of Archaeology** takes place between the 17th July and the 1st August. The theme for 2021 is Exploring Local Places. Keep checking the website for live and recorded events
<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/>

Past talks available online

Recording of Bioarchaeology Research Seminar, Durham University given by Prof. Peter Rowley-Conwy on **Hunting the Big Beasts: Aurochs and Elk in the Terminal Palaeolithic and Mesolithic**

An excellent 45 min talk and 30 minutes discussion: topics covered include animal behaviour, ethnographic and modern hunting techniques, hunting equipment and archaeological artefacts and potential management of vegetation to facilitate hunting.

<https://durhamuniversity.zoom.us/rec/share/x-5mOeyrkPwcoRIGiMmAmWmCf1O98KIWRlx5YwiHkamjoyv82joTXXtc5jD5DF7n.U-tz8tX26xfJBYvC>

Passcode: 9Hm9Bx#p

Kent Archaeological Society talks. Wide variety of talks recorded and made available on YouTube. Includes 'Did Julius Caesar land at Pegwell Bay?' <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChBQA8tx6caQAdOU9Jb0yWw>

<https://www.facebook.com/theKentArchaeologicalSociety1857>

Recordings of past **Historic Towns talks** available at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs2td9p_72Y1JFox2wK3LEQ/featured

Matthew F. Stevens: The Place of Native Populations in Medieval Colonial Towns: Wales and Prussia Compared

Keith Lilley: Mapping Chester's Landscapes: Past, Present, Future

Vanessa Harding: Early Tudor London: On the Brink of Transformation?

Helen Fulton and Giles Darkes: Making Bristol Medieval (presented 24th May, may take a week or two to be uploaded)

For talks related to the **Historic Towns Atlas** project, visit

<http://www.historictownsatlas.org.uk/content/lectures>

Other online resources

An account of **experimental oven-making and bread-baking**

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/ancient-cultures/daily-life-and-practice/biblical-bread-baking-like-the-ancient-israelites/>

Liverpool Museum has a **map of medieval Liverpool** that you can explore online. There are 'information' points at specific locations that contain brief information plus an image (some ancient some modern)

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

New discovery high status Roman remains Eastfield Scarborough. Possible villa and/or religious site info from excavations April 2021 drone fly through at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5iPlqgNv-c>

News items at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/14/roman-site-scarborough-first-kind-in-uk>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/in-your-area/yorkshire/roman-remains-discovery-scarborough/>

The **Field Museum Chicago** has several **online exhibitions** including Ancient Egypt

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibitions>

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibitions/inside-ancient-egypt>

Past TV programmes: two series have just been repeated

How the Celts Saved Britain (two episodes, presented by Dan Snow)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00kps7h>

Britain's Biggest Dig (three episodes, excavations along train route of HS2. Mostly post-medieval urban cemeteries but also the Curzon Street train station in Birmingham).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mmrf>

Sue Stallibrass



Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 6/2021

Registered Charity No 510831

From the Chair

It is good to see community archaeology taking place on our doorstep. I can recommend a visit to the Liverpool Waterfront behind the Pier Master’s House at Royal Albert Dock on a Wednesday to Friday over July. Come along and see the foundations of dockworker’s housing being excavated.

We had a small group attend the Crosby wartime defences walk which was the first of several local walks which the Society has organised over the summer period. Please book on any of the visits that interest you.

Hopefully we will get sufficient bookings per visit but reserve the right to rearrange should there be insufficient interest.

There is more information on the Crosby visit and forthcoming events below.

Roy Forshaw

Summer Meetings 2021

Thursday 15th July via ZOOM from 7.15 p.m (the formal meeting will start at 7.30)
Roy Forshaw ‘*The Archaeology of Hilbre Island*’.

Future planned events:

Date	Speaker/ Leader	Title	Venue
19 August	Rob Philpott	Archaeology of Norton Priory	ZOOM
16 September	Gina Muskett	‘Athena Parthenos in Liverpool’ and AGM	Quaker Meeting House TBC following consultation with QMH
25 September	Rob Philpott	Site Visit	Norton Priory Excavation

For those meetings held ‘virtually’ via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand. There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Talks will last 40 mins starting at 7.30. You will be able to log on from 7.15.
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.

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
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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

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

Piermaster's Green Community Excavation

Join the Museum of Liverpool and CITIZAN North on Tuesday the 13th of July for a guided Low Tide Trail around Liverpool's historic docks beginning at the Piermaster's Green community excavation. Find out how the dig has been progressing and take a look at some of the finds before taking a look at how the docks and Liverpool grew over time and investigate some of the hidden clues that survive in the landscape today which help tell the story of this development. The socially distanced walk will take an hour and a half to two hours to complete. Contact Vanessa Oakden, Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk or leave a message on 01514784260 to book your place. Due to social distancing places are limited to 8 people however the walk will be run twice in the day if demand is high.

Hilbre Island Visit. Tuesday 17th August 2021.

Hilbre Island is located off the Wirral on the River Dee. The nearest towns are West Kirby and Hoylake. West Kirby station is approximately 10 minutes walk from the assembly point.

Leave West Kirby slipway 10.45 arriving on Hilbre Island 12.00.
Leaving Hilbre Island no later than 16.00.
High tide 06.20 & 19.07
Low tide 13.13

Itinerary

This visit involves a walk across the sands from West Kirby to Hilbre Island to look at the wonderful historic landscape covering archaeology ranging from the prehistoric period to the second world war. We will not have internal access to buildings but will be able to get a closer look behind the scenes at the Buoy Masters complex and the Telegraph Station. We will try and identify the lumps and bumps forming field boundaries, potential building sites and structure foundations. There will be an element of 'what do you think?' as we wander around as the island has many unanswered questions. The Island has a SSSI classification with many visiting birds, seals and rare flora and fauna to look at.

Access

It will take approximately an hour to walk over the sands and rocky shore from West Kirby to the Island and will take in Little and Middle Eye islands. Most of the walk will be over wet sand but there is a channel we will have to cross that holds in the region of 6 inches of water. Care will also be needed over the rocky shore as this can be slippery. There will be a number of steps to negotiate linking the island with the shoreline.

Facilities.

There is a shelter on the island should the weather be bad. I have contacted the ranger and unfortunately the toilet facilities will not be available due to current restrictions.

Bring all food and water you will need as there are no supplies on the island.

To book a place.

Please contact me via roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk if you wish to attend or need more information. Those contacting me will receive further information nearer the time.

At the Museum of Liverpool, our Community Archaeology Trainees & new MAS members Natalie Sutcliffe & Jess Hornby have been working hard at the Piermaster's Green Community Dig. Here they each discuss an object chosen from the finds tray.

Dung or Doorbell? The Mystery of the Piermaster's Green Chain...



This chain has been cause for much debate over the past month or so of digging. It was found on our first day of digging in Trench II, where we are hoping to find the porch of 7 Albert Parade, the bigger of the 4 houses once standing on the site. When pulling it out of the ground we were excited and thought we could have possibly found the chain for the old doorbell. This stayed as our best guess for only a few days, until the chain landed on our finds table to show the public.

Due to the impact of Covid we are unable to let the public handle the finds, but this has not stopped the immense interest in the site. We have had people of all ages and walks of life coming to stop by to ask what is going on, engaging with us and asking questions. This chain has been one of the most talked about items on the table. We have had many guesses as to what the



mystery chain could be, many citing how they remember parents or family members having similar items in their houses. We have had people guess anywhere from hanging basket chains, to chains on old art deco light fixtures, chains on windows to the bath plug chain. But by far, the most popular suggestion has been a toilet chain. After hundreds of people sided with the toilet chain, we finally came around to the idea that our nice, little, doorbell chain, may just in fact be a toilet chain.

It is interesting to watch how an ordinary find can bring back vivid memories of such a mundane activity for so many people. Many people have recalled their parents' houses using such chains, or their school from when they were children, and it is nice to hear them reminisce about their childhood in Liverpool, albeit sparked from such an unexpected memory.

The, now not so glamorous, chain is a firm favourite amongst the public, sparking much debate, engagement and communication, usually leading to a few laughs from both parties.

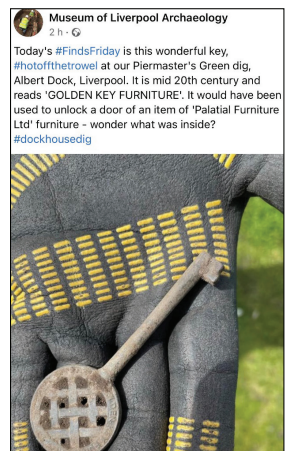
We have developed a soft spot for our (possible) toilet chain.

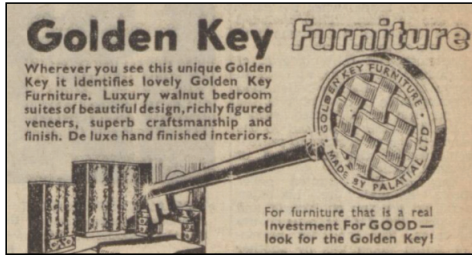
Natalie Sutcliffe

The Golden Key

Though we've found some exciting discoveries, our current star find is our furniture key. Found on our first day whilst trowelling the topsoil of Trench II (situated at the porch of Number 7 Albert Parade), we initially thought we had found the front door key. A closer inspection revealed that it was for Golden Key Furniture, produced by Palatial LTD. Manufactured between 1940 and 1950, this key sits within the later end of the houses' lifespan. Its design is eye-catching and quite intricate, with lattice work woven at the top. It is also in good condition. Set up on our finds table, the key seems to regularly catch the attention of the public as it is one of our more recognisable finds. Many mention that their relatives had furniture keys and that it brings back memories for them, highlighting the power of community archaeology. Compared to some of our other fragmented finds like glass sherds and pottery pieces, the key stands out as something familiar that people can connect to.

In these uncertain times we understand that not everyone in the community will be able to come to the waterfront to see the dig in person. To share some of our star finds, we have been posting on our social media accounts using the hashtag #dockhousedig. This has been an incredibly useful way of





engaging with the public and has helped us to learn more about the objects that we're displaying. After posting the key, a local historian responded with a newspaper advert dating from 1949. After adding this to the table, public interest around the key grew even more. The advert has been a great way of helping to show how the key was seen by the people who used it, alongside the type of deluxe walnut furniture it would have unlocked. In this way, we have been able to get more of a sense of the families as real people, helping to reconstruct their lives one artefact at a time.

As it was found in the topsoil and falls at the later end of the houses' life, we cannot be sure that this key belonged to the families living there. However, its quality and deluxe finish suggest its owners may have been wealthy. I like to imagine that the family were sifting through the newspaper and spotted this advert, finally finding the perfect furniture suite for their bedroom.

Jess Hornby

Report on Fort Crosby Visit 19th June 2021



Clockwise from top left: 1) Part of Anti-Aircraft building. 2) Vanessa, Joyce and Sue in the trenches. 3) Sue standing in assumed landmine crater. Vanessa is standing at ground level. 4) WW2 lookout foundations in foreground (centre right) immediately next to Cold War monitoring station (centre left). The metal ladder descends vertically through the square 'conning tower' on the left, with access through the small sub-rectangular hole clearly visible in the photograph. Burbo Bank windfarm and North Wales (Great Orme) visible in distance.

Our assault on Fort Crosby, which has remains from the First and Second World Wars (WW1 & WW2), consisted of a dedicated group of four after three others were lost in action leading up to the visit.

Under ideal conditions, which were cool but dry, we took a walk along the river front until we got to the WW2 anti-aircraft battery site where we looked at the building remains. It was not possible to enter the partially buried buildings but referring to contemporary plans we were able to see what the layouts were like.

Leaving the anti-aircraft site, we took one of the many paths across what was an extensive military site. There were traces of tar-macadam roads and hardstanding for buildings. With the use of 1945 photographs and camp drawings we were able to imagine where buildings such as the guardhouse and messrooms etc stood. We took the pathway which was originally the entrance road up to the main gate where the Liverpool to Southport railway line forms the boundary. Venturing into the undergrowth we looked at a line of WW1 practice trenches which were still clearly visible in a zigzag formation.

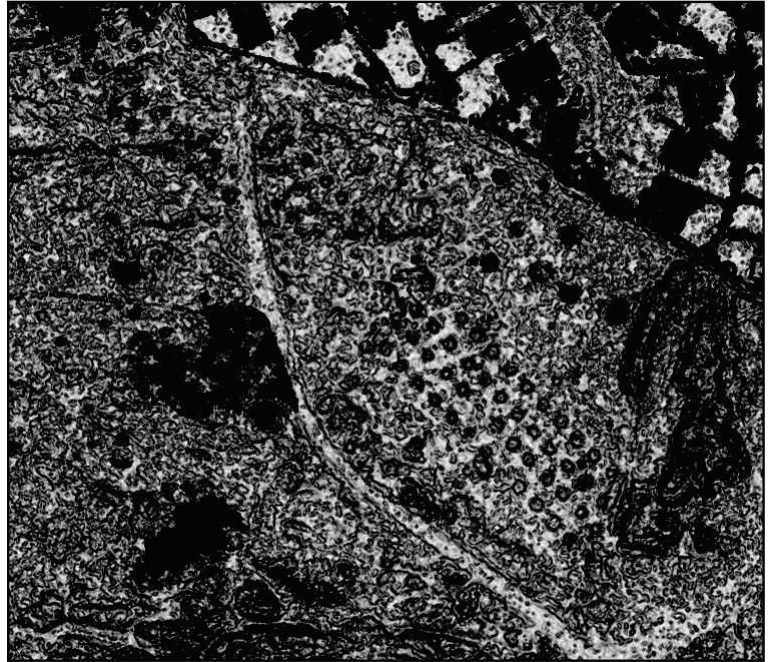
Retracing our steps, we went to look for the remains of the minefield which protected the rear of the site. Circular features that look like pits in a grid pattern can be clearly seen on LiDAR scans and infrared photographs. These had been a bit of a mystery when we did a preliminary visit the previous Monday but after some online research we have concluded that the mines were cleared by controlled detonations, and the 500mm or so deep craters were the result.

Two of the group had to leave early so we concluded the trip and saved the Hightown prehistoric forest and Crosby Blitz Beach for another time. There was just time to look at the site of the large gun battery, (which held heavy anti-boat guns) or the hole it filled, and peer across at the lookout station.

Sue and I then went on to Formby to revisit the starfish bunker and try and identify similar trench earthworks that appeared in wartime photographs. The trenches appeared to have been almost obliterated by post-war land use including asparagus farming. We weren't always sure if what we found were rabbit holes in the brambles rather than the remains of trenches! The highlight was to look for a structure that appeared on air photography on top of a large sand dune. We found upstanding remains of two structures side by side and, thanks to Mark Adams' advice and some internet searching, we learnt that one of the structures was a WW2 lookout and the building with a metal ladder disappearing underground was a cold war nuclear monitoring station. Maybe a visit for another day. We may rearrange a trip to Fort Crosby and the Hightown prehistoric forest one weekend day, possibly in the autumn or winter, when the vegetation is lower and the coast less popular with visitors. Personally, week-day visits have to be limited as I have to use up a day's holiday.

Thank you to all who attended

Roy Forshaw



LiDAR scan of minefield (grid of 'dots') adjacent to Hightown housing estate (rectangles top right). The laser scan selected to highlight slopes clearly shows the pits where the minefield was located.



Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 7/2021

Registered Charity No 510831

From the Chair

AGM alternatives.

We are still in strange times with many now inoculated against covid but infection rates may still be rising. MAS Council had anticipated that the relaxing of covid restrictions would have reflected the decrease in infections and hospital admissions. As I write this is uncertain.

What we want to avoid is a poor turnout at the Quaker Meeting House for the AGM due to concerns about coming into Liverpool. MAS Council after discussion have prepared for the possibility of holding the AGM virtually again but we want you to be involved with the decision. As the AGM is in September we are going to have an electronic vote at the August MAS zoom meeting which will give us an instant result as to whether we hold a meeting in person or via Zoom. Just before Rob's talk on Norton Priory you will have a chance to vote via an app to determine how the AGM will take place. The results will appear straight away so those attending will know the outcome on the night.

The voting questions have not been finalised yet but they will be along the lines of **do you wish to attend the AGM in person Yes or No.**

Hope to see you all virtually at the next meeting.

Roy Forshaw

Summer Meetings 2021

19th August 7.15 p.m. via Zoom. 'The Archaeology of Norton Priory'. *Rob Philpott.*
An introduction to work carried out at Norton Priory which will be followed by a site visit on 25th September.

Future planned events:

Date	Speaker/ Leader	Title	Venue
16 September	Vanessa Oakden	AGM. 'The Dock House Dig - Piermaster's Green Community Archaeology Project'	Quaker Meeting House TBC following a vote at the August meeting
25 September	Rob Philpott	Site Visit. Details in next Newsletter	Norton Priory Excavation

Merseyside Archaeological Society

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Roy Forshaw

Hon Secretary:
Liz Stewart

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Vanessa Oakden
e-mail:
Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

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

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

Hilbre Island Visit. Tuesday 17th August 2021.

We have had a good response for the Hilbre Island visit and those who have contacted me will receive meeting up information nearer the time. It is not too late to book and the walk details are in the previous newsletter. Please e mail me at roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk if you wish to book.

Please remember before you book that you will need to be able to walk there and back at a reasonable pace over the sands and rocky shoreline which is a combined distance of approximately four miles. There are also steps up and down the cliffs to negotiate and some slippery surfaces.

Looking forward to meeting up with those who have booked.

Roy Forshaw

Farewell Piermaster’s Green



The Piermaster’s Green excavation came to an end on 30 July. It’s been a fantastic opportunity for the MoL archaeology team to work with local people and students from John Moores University to uncover the remains of houses which were built in 1852 and demolished after Second World War bomb damage.

We have revealed parts of number 7, Albert Parade – the Albert Dock Superintendent’s House. We know from Jessie Hartley’s drawings of it that it was a seven bedroomed home. The archaeology has added detail about the fancy tiled floor in the hallway, the objects used by the people who lived there, and the quality of construction.



We have also excavated a section of number 8, Albert Parade, one of two Dockmaster’s Houses (along with number 10). The Piermaster’s House is Number 9, Albert Parade. At 8, Albert Parade we’ve discovered the back wall of the house with a coal chute down in to a rubble-filled cellar. Adjacent to the wall is a yard surface, well, actually, three – a layer of concrete, with a layer of slabs below, and a layer of cement from an earlier slabbed surface below that. Finds here include clay tobacco pipes, pottery, decorated door tile and even some moulded plaster.

The dig in numbers:

- 42 VOLUNTEERS
- 447m2 EXCAVATED
- 27 YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS TRY DIGGING
- 79 TRAYS OF FINDS
- 3031 VISITORS ENGAGED IN ARCHAEOLOGY
- 7 WALLS EXCAVATED
- 308 PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN
- 14-31°C TEMPERATURE RANGE
- AND A TENTH BIRTHDAY!

Comments on the dig:

- “really inspiring for kids walking around” – member of the public
- “I’ll add this to my new skills, pushing a wheelbarrow is really empowering” – dig volunteer
- “thank you for involving the local residents, it’s been a real honour to be involved” – dig volunteer
- “it’s right boss” – member of the public

Community archaeology is:

- sharing stories
- collecting evidence
- realising dreams
- sharing skills
- creating art
- searching for antibiotics
- inspiring the next generation
- understanding our past
- creating memorable experiences

Liz Stewart

Piermaster’s Green Dig and Low Tide Trail

MAS teamed up with the Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society on the 13th of July for a tour of the Piermaster’s Green Dig and Low Tide Trail with CITIZAN North. Following a Museum of Liverpool talk at the dig site and a look at the finds two groups enjoyed exploring the Waterfront with CITIZAN observing what many of us had previously walked passed without noticing! The day was enjoyed by six MAS and five MIHS members.

Roy Forshaw



Shrapnel impact marks on the Merseyside Maritime Museum

The Wirral History and Heritage Association Heritage Open Days 10-19th September 2021

The Wirral History and Heritage Association has provided a link to their Heritage Open Days page to enable a pdf version for download or printing, here: <https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar>

Wirral Heritage Open Days is a chance for everyone to enjoy the peninsula’s outstanding heritage. Locally, the Festival has been organised by the Wirral History and Heritage Association since 2009. Covid 19 has changed the nature of the offer but it is still possible to participate in a series of free events or to take part in a virtual tour of a heritage site. In England the programme is co-ordinated by the National Trust with support from the People’s Postcode Lottery.

On-line Resources

Upcoming on-line talks:

Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership has two new talks coming up and recordings of all previous talks are available online <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Site/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership/Category/westmorland-dales-heritage-talks>
Live talks are free, but please register in advance in order to receive the zoom access link (recordings of past talks can be accessed directly from the website)

Wednesday 4th August at 3pm **Little Asby Common- From Roundhouse to Long House** (survey & proposed excavation of prehistoric to early Medieval settlement). Jamie Quartermaine

Wednesday 1st September at 3pm **Archaeological Test Pitting in the Village of Ravenstonedale.** Douglas Mitchum

Wirral Heritage Open Days includes an online talk about **Hooton Hall & Hooton Hangars**. The talk will be repeated every evening from Friday 10th – Weds 15th Sept. Talk starts at 7.00pm for 45 mins followed by Q & A. Includes 3-D imaging and ‘fly through’ and the direct zoom link & password are provided on the website

<https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-events-c-h/hooton-park-hall-and-hangars>

The **Liverpool and Manchester Railway Trust** have created a new film on the **Opening of the First Passenger Railway** (15th Sept 1830) specially for the 2021 Heritage Open Days using five years of new research. It will be available online each day from Weds 15th – Sunday 19th Sept. No booking required and the links will be posted on the website from Friday 10th Sept onwards (so remember to check back if you want to access the link).

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/the-day-the-world-became-smaller-the-opening-of-the-liverpool-and-mancheste>

The Society of Antiquaries of London continue to make their public lectures available online. More are scheduled (note different lunchtime and evening times) for:

Tuesday 14th September 1 – 2pm **A Monstrous Regiment of Women: Queenship in Early Modern England** by Professor Susan Doran

Tuesday 5th October 1 - 2pm **Fighting Caesar: Britons in Gaul and Gauls in Britain in Caesar’s Battle for Gaul** by Andrew Fitzpatrick

Thursday 7th October 5-6pm **Recent fieldwork on hillforts and other earthworks in Wales** by Paul Belford

Monday 11th October 6 – 7pm (joint Soc Ant London & Soc Ant Scotland) **Searching for the ice age pioneers: Excavations at Rubha Port an t-Seilich, Isle of Islay, Scotland** Steve Mithen

Register before-hand in order to receive the link to the live talk

NB there are lots more new talks in October & onwards to look forward to: prehistoric Malta, coins & money, English landscapes & identities, the first pharaohs of Egypt, Khotan kingdom on the Silk Road...

Lots of recordings of interesting past talks are also available at the same site: <https://www.sal.org.uk/events/>

Completely new series of online talks on Tuesdays and Thursdays (+ Caroline Pudney on **Britain’s western frontier** on Friday 10th Sept) at 5.30 from July 20th – September 30th. Organised by York St John University. Inspired by British Museum’s Nero exhibition and wider issues of **Imperial Power in the Roman World**

See full programme & abstracts and book for individual talks (free). NB booking is being done sequentially so if you are interested in one of the later talks, you may need to check the website to find when booking opens

<https://blog.yorks.j.ac.uk/romanworld/programme-of-events/>

The Yorkshire Museum has events to coincide with their **‘Richard III: Coming Home’** exhibition. These digital talks and lectures run between now and the end of October. They are a mix of Archaeology, History and Art History and they concentrate on the late fifteenth century, exploring Richard’s connections to the city of York and the region. The talks are all free and start at 4.30pm on Thursdays. Further details can be found at the exhibition webpage here:

<https://www.yorkshirerosemuseum.org.uk/exhibition/richard-iii-coming-home/>

The next in the **Roman Finds Group’s** series of **Zoom in on Roman finds Seminars** is to be held on Thursday 9th September, entitled **Rubbish or Ritual in Roman Rivers**. The evening will be chaired by Nicola Hembrey with talks by Hella Eckardt, Philippa Walton and Stefanie Hoss. The event is available for booking on the website.

<https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/events/50/Zoom+in+on+Roman+finds%3A+Rubbish+or+Ritual+in+Roman+Rivers>

Recorded talks (in addition to Westmorland Dales & Society of Antiquaries of London)

If you missed either of the **Roman Finds Group's** recent conferences (hosted online by Glasgow and Exeter universities) you can now see many of the talks on their website:

Glasgow: <https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/video+presentations+from+the+2020+roman+finds+group+conference>

Exeter: <https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/2021+roman+finds+group+conference>

CBA Yorkshire Video Archive Update (CBA = Council for British Archaeology)

All the current videos for the Fireside Chats since November are now uploaded to the CBA Yorkshire website, together with the 2020 Autumn Showcase presentations and some excellent videos from the Bedale Archaeology and History Society. In total we now have almost thirty videos, all of which are *free to view* by members and *others with an interest in community archaeology and local history*

<http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/videos/>

Online resources

Roman Finds Group There are also **34 short films** on the website about different types of Roman Finds. Presented by experts, these films cover aspects of domestic, personal, military and work life.

<https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/roman+finds+group+films>

Virtual tour of the Vatican

<https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>

Virtual tours of Venice

This is from the perspective of riding in a Gondola. It is a 360 virtual reality tour. You just have to move the hand around and it moves the image around. You can also close in and expand out. It is interesting in that you can see how Venice is sinking by where the water line is at all the doors. The steps are underwater...

<https://photo360tours.com/tour/venice/venice-rialto-bridge-grand-canal-virtual-reality-tour-360.html?s=pano58000>

This is also from a Gondola, but it is a 360 video from YouTube

<https://www.thetravelmagazine.net/a-virtual-tour-of-venice-in-all-her-romantic-glory-la-serenissima.html>

Prehistoric animal carvings, thought to be between 4,000 and 5,000-years-old, (Neolithic or Early Bronze Age) have been discovered for the first time in Scotland hidden inside Dunchraigaig Cairn in Kilmartin Glen

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/prehistoric-animal-carvings-discovered-for-the-first-time-in-scotland/> with a link to a YouTube short video

The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company has lots of information about the boat, excavation, reconstruction work, and a short CGI video at

<https://www.nationalhistoricalships.org.uk/shipshape/sutton-hoo-ships-company>

King George III Topographical & maritime collections. Maps, etchings, watercolours. Mainly later 18th Century. Whole of England plus some colonies, recently digitised and made available online via Flickr

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/king-george-iii#>

Canterbury Cathedral stained glass You may have seen news about **new dating** of windows using portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF). Ian Freestone specialises in the chemical compositions of glass and has several academic papers publicly available on his Academia page at <https://ucl.academia.edu/IanFreestone> including the recent Canterbury Cathedral study with Laura Adlington & Léonie Seliger. This article is interesting for its detective work and the images, whether or not you are also interested in the scientific aspects.

NB Online Academic papers on Academia. These are free to access. You can read online for free or you can download the pdf file if you register (for free). You do not need to have papers to upload yourself. You will probably be asked if you want to download a package of papers- that is a subscription service not free! Just go for the one you want. <https://support.academia.edu/hc/en-us/articles/360043939793-Are-Papers-on-Academia-Free->

'How to do it' video:

Bucket flotation and wet sieving of archaeological sediment samples (NB this introductory video, which focuses on the recovery of charred plant remains, was produced by a German university using a local site. UK standards are 40-60 litres per sample ie much bigger than this video uses) and we rarely have such amenable sandy soils! Impressive use of solar panels to directly power the equipment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVNEAc-82Kc>

UK environmental sampling guidelines can be found on the Historic England website

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/archaeological-science/environmental-archaeology/>

Other guidance is available!

Recent TV programmes ongoing/available on catch-up

NEW SERIES: **Walking Tudor Britain** presented by Suzannah Lipscombe on 5 Select screening 9 – 10pm Tuesdays. NB I think the last (4th) episode is 3rd August, but they go straight onto the online site.

<https://www.channel5.com/show/walking-tudor-britain/>

RECORDINGS:

Also available on 5 Select are six episodes with Dan Jones **Walking Britain's Roman Roads**

<https://www.channel5.com/show/walking-britains-roman-roads/>

And three series of four episodes each with Rob Bell **Walking Britain's Lost Railways** each one focusing on a different geographical area ie East Midlands, Cotswolds, North Devon, Scotland, Edinburgh.

<https://www.channel5.com/show/walking-britains-lost-railways/>

BBC4 **The Art of Persia** presented by Samira Ahmed (three episodes) (available for 11 months)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000k48j/art-of-persia>

WILL DISAPPEAR SOON FROM WEBSITE: BBC4 **Treasures of Ancient Greece** presented by Alastair Sooke (three episodes)

First episode expires sometime on 9th August

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b05qnd92/treasures-of-ancient-greece>

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This annual national event, held in early September, has a range of activities including access to some buildings that are not usually open to the public. You can search the national website for all events (and focus on locations where you live or places you might like to visit). <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Here's just a couple of examples:

All Saints Church, Childwall, Liverpool: the church, tower and churchyard will be open on Saturday 18th Sept from 10 – 4 and on Sunday 19th Sept from 2 – 4. This year there are no guided tours but there will be an introductory video to view and then you can explore, with stewards on hand.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/all-saints-church-childwall>

Wirral History & Heritage Association are organising a series of events (walks, visits, & open days) from Friday 10th – Sunday 19th Sept, but please check each one as some may be cancelled due to Covid. Besides several open-for-the-day buildings, there are lots of activities to choose from: visit West Kirby Museum, 'behind the scenes' at Wirral Archives in Birkenhead, New Ferry Butterfly Park, New Brighton Heritage & Information Centre, the traditional apple orchard at Brimstage Hall, or the Bidston Community Archaeology group; go on an industrial heritage walk at Woodside, or Birkenhead Park Heritage walk, Port Sunlight Edible Heritage walking tour (!), Rock Ferry Rock Park, Hoylake, Woodchurch... there's loads! Many activities are one-off events so check the times and dates and any booking details.

<https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar>

Sue Stallibrass



From the Chair

It is a brief Chair’s ramble this month. We had a successful walk over to Hilbre in August braving the weather, and an enlightening lecture by Rob on the past excavations and expectations for this year’s dig at Norton Priory. Anyone wishing to attend the Norton Priory field trip needs to book using the details contained in this newsletter so that Rob knows what numbers to cater for.

At the August Zoom lecture the attending membership took a vote as to whether we should hold the AGM at the Quaker Meeting House or virtually. There is still a reluctance to come into Liverpool in the evening so the decision has been made to defer attending the QMH until the New Year. **Please do not come to the previously announced Quaker Meeting House meetings as these will now be via Zoom.**

There are places available on Council as members and officers stand down. Liz Stewart is standing down as Secretary and Heather Beeton had put her name forward to take on the role. Heather is Portable Antiquities Service Liaison Officer at National Museums Liverpool. The post is still open for other nominations should there be a scramble to be Secretary.

Chris Wood and David Scott are standing down as Council members after many years service. Liz will take up one of the places on Council but there is at least one place available for any member who would like to join. We anticipate continuing Council meetings via Zoom even when we return back to ‘normality’ so there is no requirement to come into Liverpool to attend. Meetings take approximately an hour and they are held quarterly.

Hope to see as many as possible at the forthcoming AGM.

Roy Forshaw

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
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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

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Autumn 2021 meetings

The AGM and lecture on 16th September can be accessed via Zoom from 7.15 p.m.

For those meetings held ‘virtually’ via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand. There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Talks will last 40 mins starting at 7.30. You will be able to log on from 7.15.
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.
7. There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M> .
Autumn Meetings 2021.

2021 Programme:

Date	Speaker/ Leader	Title	Venue
16 September	Vanessa Oakden	AGM. 'The Dock House Dig - Piermaster's Green Community Archaeology Project'	Zoom
25 September	Rob Philpott	Site visit. See below	Norton Priory
21 October		Lecture tbc	Zoom
18 November	Gina Muskett	Mosaics in the County Sessions House, Liverpool	Zoom
16 December	Various	Christmas Social and Quiz	Zoom

Norton Priory Trip on Saturday 25th September at 2 p.m.

MAS has a long-standing association with Norton Priory. In the 1970s many of the Society's first members participated in training excavations and voluntary work at the site. There are still fond memories of the tile-making kiln excavation and its subsequent reconstruction. It is a great achievement that this close connection still prevails. Rob gave a preview of the site visit and recent archaeological work conducted by the University of Liverpool at the August on-line Zoom meeting. Society members are invited to visit the Priory to learn more and to see what discoveries have been made in the 2021 excavation. Pre-booking is recommended by contacting Rob Philpott at rob.philpott@hotmail.co.uk when you receive this Newsletter.

Lifts for MAS field trip to Norton Priory. If you need (or can offer) a lift to get to Norton Priory on Saturday 25th September, please contact Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk before 10pm on THURSDAY 23rd September. I can pick people up from the Liverpool South Parkway station car park. I shall be leaving there about 12.00 noon so that we get to Norton Priory about 12.30 and have 1.5 hours to visit the museum and/or the cafe before we gather for the guided tour of the excavations. We can wear masks in the car, like we would on public transport.

Hilbre Island Visit on 17th August

15 gallant and enthusiastic members attended the walk over to Hilbre. Whilst walking over, the weather was bracing with light rain in our faces supplemented by high winds. All plans of showing the illustrations I had prepared were dashed by the winds but with a lot of gesturing and shouting I think I got the message across. We got around a good part of the island but there has been a request for a themed visit next year concentrating on specific periods of history, so watch this space.

During the visit whilst looking at the buildings we noted that some of the properties had had forced entry. This was reported to Wirral Borough Council and the issues were addressed the following day when



it was discovered that there had been some illegal occupation and vandalism in the buildings.

Thanks to everyone who braved the elements and contributed to an enjoyable day. Big thanks also to Sue Stallibrass who spent a lot of the time at the back of the group ensuring everyone got there and back safely.

Roy Forshaw

Heritage Open Days

Every year in early September, there are events to celebrate heritage sites. These may be guided walks and talks, buildings open to the public for one-off events, or buildings/sites/museums with extended opening hours. Events vary each year. This year's open days take place between **Friday 10th – Sunday 19th Sept.** Some require booking, some do not. You can search the website by location, type of event or date at:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Here's just a couple of examples:

Wirral History & Heritage Association are organising a series of events (walks, visits, & open days) from **Friday 10th – Sunday 19th Sept.** but please check each one as some may be cancelled due to Covid. Besides several open-for-the-day buildings, there are lots of activities to choose from: visit West Kirby Museum, 'behind the scenes' at Wirral Archives in Birkenhead, New Ferry Butterfly Park, New Brighton Heritage & Information Centre, the traditional apple orchard at Brimstage Hall, or the Bidston Community Archaeology group; go on an industrial heritage walk at Woodside, or Birkenhead Park Heritage walk, Port Sunlight Edible Heritage walking tour (!), Rock Ferry Rock Park, Hoylake, Woodchurch... there's loads! Many activities are one-off events so check the times and dates and any booking details. <https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar>

The Wirral History and Heritage Association has provided a link to their Heritage Open Days page to enable a pdf. version for download or printing, here: <https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/whod-calendar>

All Saints Church, Childwall, Liverpool: the church, tower and churchyard will be open on **Saturday 18th Sept from 10 – 4** and on **Sunday 19th Sept from 2 – 4**. This year there are no guided tours but there will be an introductory video to view and then you can explore, with stewards on hand.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/all-saints-church-childwall1>

On Line Resources

Recorded Talks

Greater Manchester:

- Professor Nigel Linge, University of Salford. Nigel reviews the **industrial archaeology of the mobile phone.**
- Norman Redhead provides a **round-up of archaeological fieldwork and research across Greater Manchester in 2020.**
- Dr Mike Nevell looks at **conservation and community archaeology work in and around the Bridgewater Canal at Worsley** over the last few years.

They can be downloaded FREE from YouTube at <https://bit.ly/3z9pkIP> .



Wirral Heritage Open Days

10th – 19th September 2021

Wirral Heritage Open Days is a chance for everyone to enjoy the peninsula's outstanding heritage.

In England the programme is coordinated by the National Trust with support from the People's Postcode Lottery.

Locally the festival has been organised by the Wirral History & Heritage Association since 2009.



Covid 19 has changed the nature of the offer but it is still possible to participate in a series of free events or to take part in a virtual tour of a heritage site.

Details on www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk
Safeguarding measures will be in place.

Podcasts for the following can be found at <https://bit.ly/3BjdQ7k>

- Digging up **Hulme Barracks and the Peterloo Massacre**
- **Buckton Castle** mysteries
- The **founding of Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit**

Southport's premier museum and cultural centre, the Atkinson, recently hosted a lecture by Dr Clare Downham about **Viking settlement on the Wirral and the Battle of Brunanburh**. The livestream was ticketed to raise funds for the museum, but the lecture is now freely available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99VrFHzu71E>

Some of the talks associated with the **Council for British Archaeology** (CBA)'s annual **Festival of Archaeology** are available either on the CBA website or directly on the relevant organiser website.

See the CBA Festival website at <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/resources> (I simply used the keyword 'recording' but there are lots of other resources besides talks)

One talk that some members may be particularly interested in is Harold Mytum's talk on **graveyard memorial stones**

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/resources/making-stones-speak-some-examples-how-graveyard-monuments-reveal-hidden-stories-1616937333>

Matthew Beamish of University of Leicester Archaeological Services talked about **The Archaeology & History of Bradgate Park, Leicestershire**, illustrating the use of **lidar** techniques <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scfAqt89-Pg>

The **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales** are pleased to confirm that their recent Festival of Archaeology talk, '**Wales from Above: One Hundred Years of Aerial Photographs of Wales**' by Medwyn Parry is now available to view on our **YouTube channel**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LkmFy_G4MQ

Other Online Resources

Dig Greater Manchester The blog site now includes:

- pdfs of all 27 of the Greater Manchester Past Revealed booklets, including the latest two published this year (No.26 'Life on Marr' and No.27 'Salford Regeneration') <https://bit.ly/3ktSY7F>
- a range of archaeology information panels deriving from development schemes and community projects <https://bit.ly/3wNNpn1>
- all of the GM Archaeology Federation newsletters <https://bit.ly/2UnatMc> <https://youtu.be/scfAqt89-Pg>

Early Medieval carved stones are on display in **Neston church** and there is an informative and well-illustrated article about them on Howard Williams' blog (with a link to the Anglo-Saxon corpus of carved stonework)

<https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2020/12/19/nestons-early-medieval-stones/>

The Viking Age in the North West (mentioned before in newsletter) is a free app which allows you to discover a range of sites in the Wirral that shed light on the history of Viking settlement and integration. These sites range from place-names and archaeological finds to stone sculptures. The app comes with a map to help you locate sites, or you can browse through the alphabetical list. There is a brief description and image for every featured site, as well as references to find out more information. It is hoped to expand the geographical range of the app in future, and feedback via the app is welcome. You can download the app for free from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).

Historic England publishes articles on new work by their **specialist teams in Research News**. You can download the entire issue or simply click on individual articles of interest to read online. Previous issues are also available at the same weblink.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/research/>

An interdisciplinary research team looking into the history of bears and people has created an informative & entertaining animated

presentation of the **16th Century Nantwich fire and the role of bears...** <https://boxofficebears.com/>

The North Welsh **town of Flint in photos and videos**. YouTube channel DEXTRA VISUAL showcases the animated films commissioned by Flintshire County Council and funded by Heritage Lottery. They cover a range of eras and are both informative and entertaining. <https://localhistoryvideos.com/flint/>

Cumbria Prehistory Resource Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS) has produced a learning resource to help teachers in the county's schools support the teaching of prehistory, from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, within the History curriculum. The pack was produced with input from archaeological experts and feedback from teachers and learners after a pilot session in a Maryport school. It comprises an introductory slide show; in school activities (covering topics like artefacts, burials, food and the home); on-site activity suggestions (using Cumbrian sites, artefacts and museums); background information and signposts to further information. **The resource pack is free and can be downloaded from the CWAAS's Cumbria Past website.** https://cumbriapast.com/cgi-bin/cwaas/cp_main.pl?action=cp_schools_area

TV Programmes

Live & Online BBC4 at 20:00 (8pm)

Our Coast: Adrian Chiles & Mehreen Baig explore 4 coasts around the **Irish Sea**.

English (Liverpool & Sefton) broadcast Sat 14th August

Welsh (Anglesey/Menai Strait) broadcast Sat 21st August

Northern Ireland (County Down) broadcast Sat 28th August

Scotland to be broadcast presumably 4th September

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000f695>

Online. Three programmes tracing the history of archaeological explorations.

Archaeology: A Secret History

NB this website has lots of links to other online BBC archaeology programmes & podcasts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0109jnw>

Online Resources compiled by Sue Stallibrass, with many thanks to Maurice Handley, Roy Forshaw & Joyce Hughes for contributions.

If anyone has information about interesting online resources that they would like to share via this section of the MAS newsletter, **please send them** to Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk

Sue Stallibrass



Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 9/2021

Registered Charity No 510831

From the Chair

The AGM went without any hitches and Vanessa Oakden gave a splendid presentation on the success of the Pier Masters Green excavation. Thank you to all who attended and made the meeting a success.

The business meeting resulted in a new look to the council with the following in post:

Chair - Roy Forshaw	Web site manager – Ben Croxford
Secretary - Heather Beeton	Events Coordinator - Sue Stallibrass
Treasurer – Dave Roberts	Mark Adams
Past Chair – Maurice Handley	Ann Gemmell
Newsletter Editor – Samantha Rowe	Rob Philpott
Membership Secretary – Vanessa Oakden	Liz Stewart

For those who were not able to attend the AGM we confirmed that we will be continuing zoom lectures until the new year with an intention of having our first meeting at the Quaker Meeting House in February. This avoids the busy Christmas evening and January periods in the city centre often during bad weather.

Sue Stallibrass puts in a lot of work identifying links to third party websites, virtual lectures, and recorded lectures. As the newsletter will be shortly returning to a quarterly issue we are asking if you find the links useful or with the gradual return to meetings in person Sue can devote her time to other things. Will you e mail me if you still would like the information on web links.

This is the last newsletter Dave Roberts will be producing as he is handing over editorship to Sam Rowe. Dave has been editor for umpteen years adding it to his long list of tasks including that of Treasurer and Journal Secretary. Thank you for producing such a varied and informative publication over many years. I am sure Sam would be pleased to receive contributions for inclusion in her newsletter over the coming years.

Roy Forshaw

Autumn Meetings 2021.

All meetings are via Zoom. Zoom sessions will start at 7.15 p.m. and lectures will commence at 7.30 p.m.

21st October James Wright FSA: *Mediaeval Buildings Myths – The Folklore and Archaeology of Historic Buildings*

This talk looks at some of the most common misconceptions surrounding historic buildings. Stories of secret passages, yarns that spiral stairs in castles turn one way to advantage right-handed swordsmen and tall tales of ships timbers in pubs. Hopefully, the talk will help to give a broader and deeper understanding of mediaeval buildings that will bring us just that little bit closer to their former occupants.

Merseyside Archaeological Society

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Roy Forshaw

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e-mail:
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18th November Gina Muskett: *'From Leicestershire to Liverpool: the Roman mosaic from Medbourne'*

This talk is based on an article published in 2015 in the journal 'Mosaic'. Although the County Sessions House mosaic is the starting point for the talk, primarily to emphasise the link with Liverpool, the main topic of the talk is the original Roman mosaic which I rediscovered in Juniper Street store and the involvement of the 19th century railway engineer who managed to save a fragment for us in Liverpool and apparently supervised the laying of the CSH floor. The really good thing about the fragment in the Antiquities collection is that it is part of a significant mosaic pavement from a Roman villa, first found in the 18th century and, until my 'find' had been thought lost.

16th December *Christmas Party and Quiz*

For those meetings held 'virtually' via Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be issued via e-mail a few days beforehand. There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

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- Autumn Meetings 2021.**

Lost Halls of Merseyside

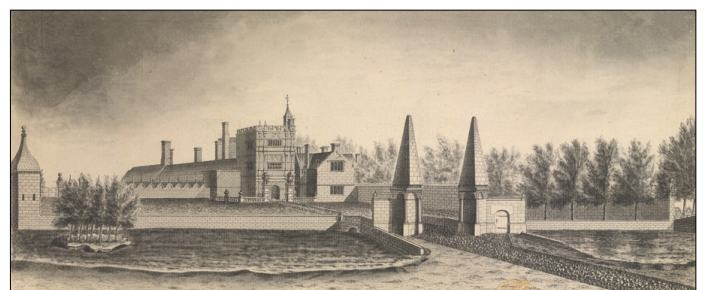
This short article is the first of a planned series which will briefly describe what I've chosen to term the 'Lost Halls of Merseyside', though most will be known to members of MAS, at the very least as placenames.

None of the houses I'll be covering have significant standing remains, the sites of most will have been built over long ago, and the locations of some largely forgotten. Others may have been partly or fully excavated since they were demolished, and in few instances small sections may (or may not, there'll be some speculation) survive incorporated into later buildings. The only criteria I've set myself is that the original house should have been constructed between c.1100 AD and 1650 AD and that there shouldn't be any significant standing remains; so houses such as Speke Hall, Storeton Hall and Brimstage Hall won't be covered. I won't be covering every site on Merseyside, but cherry picking those with good map, photographic or painted evidence or interesting stories.

My aim's not to provide a detailed or exhaustive account of each site, or to present any new research, more to provide short pointers to what's out there and what's been lost over the past 1-200 years as Liverpool and the towns around it expanded to create Merseyside as it is today. All of the sites I'll be covering have been studied by others long before I took any interest and I'll provide a list of sources with each for those who want to read more (or point out my mistakes). However, the two best single sources which cover most of the sites are Jen Lewis's BAR published in 2000 (Lewis 2000) and Vol 11 of JMAS (Lewis & Cowell 2002).

Bank Hall

Bank Hall, the seat of the Moore family, was located in Kirkdale, now a part of inner city Liverpool but a separate township until 1835 when it was incorporated into the rapidly expanding Borough of Liverpool. The family played a significant role in the medieval and post-medieval history of Liverpool and Lancashire, for example Colonel John Moore, played a prominent part in the Civil War sieges of the town and was one of the signatories to Charles I's death warrant. However, Kirkdale remained largely agricultural in character until the 1830s and 40s but was



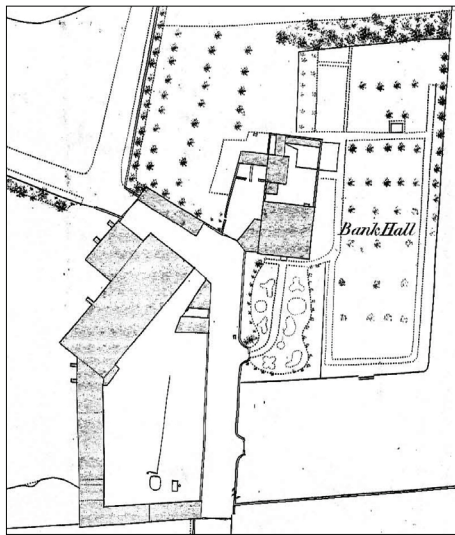
Bank Hall. Blackmore engraving 1754

soon rapidly incorporated into Liverpool as the dock system and housing were constructed, largely obliterating the earlier landscape.

The Moore family's association with Liverpool and Kirkdale can be traced to at least the mid-13th century, prior to that the main landholders in Kirkdale seem to have been the Kirkdale and Ireland families. The date at which Bank Hall was founded is unclear. The Moore's original principal dwelling in the 13th century was Moore Hall on Old Hall Street in Liverpool which is first mentioned in 1236 and was demolished in 1820 (Farrer & Brownbill 1907; McLaughlin Cook & Roberts 2007). William Moore purchased the manor of Kirkdale in 1408 and in 1434 Robert de la Moore owned land at Bank House which was probably the site of Bank Hall. It therefore seems likely that Bank Hall was built early in the 15th century, a date which would be consistent with later descriptions of the house being situated within a moat.



1768 Yates & Perry Bank Hall



Bank Hall 1847

Owing to family debt the manor of Kirkdale and most of the lands were sold to the Earl of Derby in January 1724/5. The purchase included the manors of Kirkdale, Bootle, and Linacre, and all Sir Cleave Moore's estates in Kirkby, West Derby, Fazakerley, Litherland, Little Crosby, Ellel, Horsam, Walton, and Liverpool (Farrer & Brownbill 1907).

There are few contemporary descriptions of Bank Hall. The best is by William Enfield (1773) who described Bank Hall as:

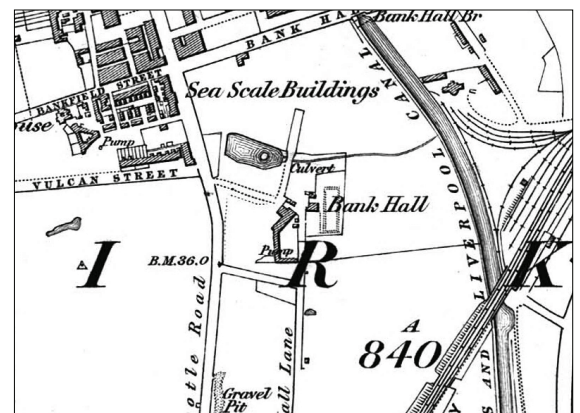
'...a curious model of the ancient architecture, such as prevailed about 500 years ago, and doubtless in those days was esteemed a very grand structure. The front of it was moated with water, over which was a passage by a bridge between two obelisks to the gateway, whereon was a tower, on which were many shields of arms carved in stone : of which the most remarkable was that within the court, over the gate, being undoubtedly the achievement of the founder, viz. 1st, Ten Trefoils, 4, 3, 2, 1 2d, Three Greyhounds current; 3rd, A Buck's-head, cabosh'd, in front; 4th, A Griphon Rampant. Crest, a More-Cock Volant, Date, 1282

The great hall was a curious piece of antiquity, much ornamented with carvings, busts, and shields. It had no ceiling, but was open quite up to the roof, with various projections of the carved parts, hereon trophies of war and military habiliments were formerly suspended. On a wall, between the court and garden, was a grand arrangement of all the armorial acquisitions of the family. The shields were carved on circular stones, elevated, and placed at equal distances, like an embattlement. But this venerable pile has lately been demolished and will probably soon be forgotten.'

The description of the great hall implies a structure similar to those at Rufford and Speke Halls and it seems to have been largely unaltered since it was first built in the early 15th century, but unfortunately it's not possible to determine whether or not it had stone walls or was timber framed.

Herdman (1856) described *'....a stone 2 ft. 6 in. high by 18 in. broad, inserted in the garden wall near the old moat; it had upon it the "trefoils" of Turton, and the motto within a scroll, " Dieu et mav povrt.'* This, and some of the other carvings, may have been taken to Knowsley Hall *'to which a number of the carved and worked stones were taken'* (Stewart-Brown 1911) but they seem to have since been lost.

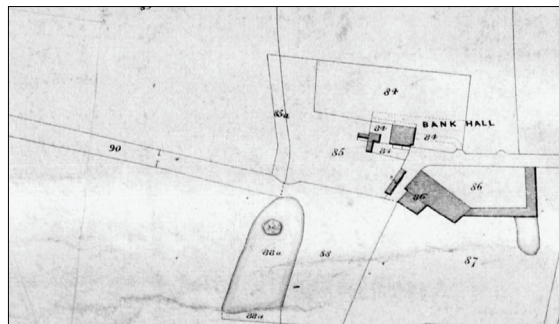
There are a couple of engraved views of the hall. The Blackmore engraving of 1754 shows gardens accessed by gates bounded by two obelisks which seem to be to the front of a bridge crossing a moat as described by Enfield 19 years later. The house is fronted by a crenellated three storey gatehouse with a single arched gate. The materials are uncertain but are likely to be brick and/or stone and the architecture is consistent with a broadly 15-16th century date. To its right (south) is a gable fronted two storey wing, probably



Bank Hall 1851

in stone, with mullioned windows and chimney stacks, the presence of two storeys suggests that it cannot be the open great hall Enfield described. To the rear of the gatehouse is a two (?) storey service wing with at least five brick(?) chimney stacks. The Great Hall described by Enfield does not seem to be depicted, it may have been incorporated into the service wing but is perhaps more likely to be out of view, obscured by the other buildings.

Herdman's drawing shows a similar arrangement, but must have been produced long after the hall's demolition in 1773, Herdman was born in 1805, and is likely to be based upon the Blackmore engraving.



Bank Hall 1839 Tithe Map

The only contemporary map to show Bank Hall is the 1768 Yates and Perry map. This shows Bank Hall as two structures set within a small square enclosure, presumably the moat, the larger northern building is L-shaped.

To the south are two ponds, perhaps fishponds, and south of that a single L-shaped building. The latter is probably the same building as that depicted to the south of the pond on the 1st edition OS map. Although named as 'Bank Hall' on the OS map, this cannot be the Moore's residence because that had been demolished over 70 years earlier. The same building is shown on the 1839 Tithe Map, though the apportionment provides few useful details. The house is at Plot 85 and was occupied by Michael Ashcroft, the large range of buildings to the south of the house are merely labelled 'Outbuildings' and it seems that this was a farm attached to Bank Hall, though it must have dated to at least the late 18th century, perhaps earlier. This site too had been demolished by the time the next OS map was surveyed in the 1890s.

The site today would be unrecognisable to the Moore's, it lies on the fringes of the dock estate in an area now occupied by warehouses and light industrial units constructed on the site since the mid-19th century. The chances of anything of the buildings surviving below ground are best described as minimal, though there may be an outside chance that sections of the moat survive.

Enfield W. 1773 *Essay Towards the History of Liverpool* <https://archive.org/details/anessaytowardsh00perrgoog/page/n158/mode/2up>

Farrer W. and Brownbill J. 1907 *A History of the County of Lancaster*, 3, 35-40.

Herdman W.G. 1856 *Pictorial Relics Of Ancient Liverpool. Accompanied with Descriptions Of The Antique Buildings*

Lewis J. & Cowell R.W. 2002 The archaeology of a changing landscape : the last thousand years in Merseyside. *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society*, 11.

McLaughlin Cook J. & Roberts D. 2007 *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1770*. Merseyside Arch Soc.

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Mark Adams

Childwall All Saints Graveyard Survey – 'What lies beyond the grave..'

The May Newsletter contained an article describing what the graveyard survey team has achieved over the last 10 years or so. We now look to the future, at what can be gained from an analysis of the data and at additional information that can be gathered from other sources and how it may be used to piece together the development of the churchyard over time. The survey data will be of use to people with varying interests for example the genealogist, the local and art historian or geologist. The focus here is purely archaeological.



All Saints Church 1845 OS Map



All Saints Church 1927 OS Map showing the 1878 extension

Archaeology is a multi-discipline subject which often requires knowledge of specialist subject areas. Some of this knowledge is held by the archaeologist but in some instances it is necessary to refer to outside experts. The initial approach to this study is based on the study of landscapes and material culture. Landscapes are largely defined by time and space and the needs of the people who inhabit them. Material culture can be described as the production of objects by humans to meet their needs. Both definitions are relevant to the archaeological study of graveyards.

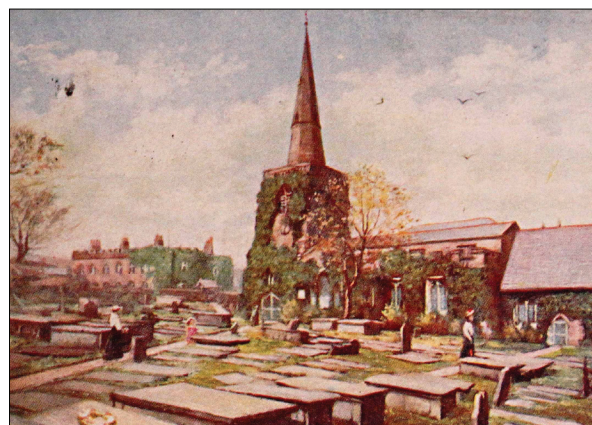
Brief History

At the centre of the graveyard landscape lies the Church and it is the collective history of this building and the people who worshipped there that define what we see in the graveyard today. Ronald Stewart-Brown (who is buried in the churchyard) has written an excellent history of the church building and its congregation (Stewart-Brown 1914). Briefly, a priest at Childwall is mentioned in Domesday and there was probably a 'church' there at that time. The building we see today is largely 18th century but contains a number of architectural elements dating back to the 11/12th century. The earliest dateable churchyard monument bears the date 1620. Throughout the church's history many burials will have been disturbed to make way for new incumbents. An ossuary was constructed on the north side of the church in 1723 to keep the remains of those who were 're-housed'. The building was demolished around 1810.

The Development of the Churchyard

The 1845 edition of the Ordnance Survey map shows us that the churchyard in the mid-19th century was substantially smaller than it is today. A Terrier dated 1875 (church document) includes a plan of proposed new ground showing available plots and tells us that a successful application was made to the Bishop of Chester to extend the graveyard to the east by 4022 square yards. (Stewart-Brown 1914, 83). This can be confirmed by archaeological evidence and the churchyard layout on the 1891 and 1927 Ordnance Survey maps. A further extension was made to the north and north-east of the church about 1930. This is the churchyard we see today.

The events leading up to the 1875 expansion are interesting. In common with many churches established before the 19th century, the graveyard at Childwall was beginning to fill up as a result of Liverpool's Victorian expansion. An application under the Burial Act 1853 to close the churchyard in favour of a new cemetery at Wavertree never went ahead (Atherton I.). The history behind this application remains to be investigated. The tight packing of the mid-19th century monuments on the south side of the church may be a consequence of a lack of available space at this time. It is also interesting that the boundary between the old church ground and the extension opened in 1875 shows a clear contrast in monument type with old red sandstone ledgers on the one side and yellow sandstone headstones and early 20th century granite monuments on the other. This may indicate a gap in the natural development of the graveyard landscape and consequently there may be some monument types which would normally be found in a churchyard of this period which are missing.



Postcard view of the south side of the churchyard 1905

Data in the Graveyard Survey

The data gathered in the graveyard survey is our starting point for looking more deeply into how the churchyard at Childwall has evolved over time. For example, we can breakdown the attributes of nearly 2500 existing

monuments in several ways e.g. by monument type, the material from which they are made, the style and application of the lettering in the epitaph, orientation etc. and produce graphs and tables showing trends over time. Using the location plan we can look at the spatial arrangement of monument types. We can also analyse the data retrieved from epitaphs and produce statistics for a population of 6,000 - 8,000 people, by date of death, age at death, sex, residence, occupation etc. Most of this is easily done and will provide useful information regarding the final remains of the churchyard population and its landscape.

The surviving monuments present in the churchyard are a part of the material culture of those who are buried there. There are many different reasons for choosing a particular monument type, its decoration and wording in the epitaph and its place within the churchyard. Influences include wealth, status, tradition and culture. The last two are subject to change over time. In some cases the choice of monument was planned in advance. In others, it was carried out retrospectively by relatives after death. When these factors are combined with human traits such as belief, grief and emotion it becomes difficult to identify a reason for the choice of monument and its attributes archaeologically.

The general trend over time is from simple headstones and ledgers alongside larger chest tombs and table graves to the exotic and extravagant 19th and early 20th century monuments with an abundance of Latin crosses and then headstones in a wide variety of forms and stonework. The Victorian and early 20th century headstones can be broken down into many types and sub-types.

The monument materials are most interesting. The early monuments, mainly headstones and ledgers, are made from red sandstone and the assumption is that the stone was sourced locally. There were at least 10 sandstone quarries operating nearby (Historic England County Building Stone Atlas (undated)). There was an explosion of new materials in the mid-19th century with a shift from red to lighter coloured sandstones, the introduction of the use of marble and the appearance of new monument types and materials. The current assumption is that the new materials e.g. granites and larvikites became available as a result of the demand for 'exotic' stonework in the late 19th century building industry in the



Monument to Annie Caton (died 1912), wife of Robert Caton. Celtic ringed cross with bosses, boars and serpents



A broken larvikite cross shaft

centre of Liverpool. This was also a period of rapid advances in technology and improvements in transport which made 'exotic' stone easier to work and more accessible. Identification of some of these new stone types requires the assistance of specialists and we are grateful to members of Liverpool Geological Society and our own Maurice Handley for their help. The names of 31 late 19th and 20th century masons have been found on some of the monuments. Document searches may reveal useful information regarding their trade.

One of the curiosities of the Childwall churchyard is the large number of vaults. The older part of the graveyard contains 16 vaults which mainly survive as low, flat, rectangular structures often with a kerb and a flat stone marked 'Entrance' in front. The 1875 extension plan shows 36 new plots described as vaults. These new vaults appear on the plan as subterranean square structures. Above ground they comprise some of the most elegant monuments in the churchyard and include those of the Mac Iver family the founders of Cunard and Sir Andrew Barclay Walker. The means of access and construction methods used in the creation of these particular monuments are yet to be investigated.

Data from Other Sources

We need to combine the data from the survey with that from other sources to get anywhere near the complete story of the churchyard. Documents available to the survey team include an undated survey of the old part of churchyard (church document). By reference to the last typescript entry the survey appears to date about 1938. The surveyor is not named. It includes a detailed plan and will be useful for cross-checking against the current survey. Early plans of Childwall parish exist and will be consulted which may add further information regarding the evolution of the churchyard. Old photos, drawings and paintings of the church and its surroundings are also immediately accessible. The possibility and value of accessing other records including accounts and parish books has yet to be considered. A further insight may be acquired by a document search into family records, newspaper reports and

the probate records etc. of select individuals. Wally Pritchard, a church member, has already done much useful research into the history of families buried there.

One of the most important archives at the Church is the burial register which spans 1557 to date. The early years up to 1753 have been transcribed by the Lancashire Parish Register Society and are available as books or pdf. files. (Dickinson F. and Foster I. 1983). The survey team has photographed the church burial register from 1750 to 1940. An Excel spread sheet of the Bishop's transcripts from 1729 to 1870 using data extracted from the 'Ancestry' web-site has also been created. The burial information in the Bishop's transcripts appears to match the data in the burial register although there are some omissions. In the coming months we will be checking and adding data from the burial register onto the spread sheet to get a complete electronic record of the burials that are registered.

Access to the burial record is extremely valuable. A large number of the individuals named in the burial register are not mentioned on a monument in the churchyard. There are many possible reasons for this. Conversely, many of the persons named on monuments are not buried in the churchyard but are remembered in order to establish family relationships. As all this information will be held electronically it should be relatively easy to ask questions of the data by mixing and matching information from the two datasets.

The Future

There is much to consider. Clearly, this is a project which is largely data driven. It will involve asking the right questions of the data, referring to the documentary sources for additional information and validating the results where possible. The approach should be to start 'simple' and then drill down further into the data to explore the detail. Many questions may have to be answered by further visits to the churchyard. Taking on an investigation into the whole of the historic period of the churchyard in one go is too big a task. Initial thoughts are that the mid 19th to early 20th centuries look particularly interesting as a starting point as there is a wide variety of monuments and the documentary record is good. The possible rewards are plain to see.

At present there are 3 of us working on the final stages of Phase 2. We will shortly be looking for additional volunteers to assist with what is tentatively called phase 3. The project requires a good knowledge of MS Excel and/or experience in searching for and extracting information from documents. There will be an announcement in a future Newsletter.

Atherton I. 1853 National Archives <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16772882>

Dickinson F. and Foster I. 1983 Lancashire and Cheshire Parish Register Society Pt 1 Vol.106 1557-1680 Pt 2 Vol. 122 1681 – 1753, Advertising Printing Works

Minerals UK, Historic England County Building Stone Atlas (undated) : https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/buildingStones/StrategicStoneStudy/EH_atlases.html

Stewart-Brown R. 1914 Notes on Childwall Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Vol. 65 N.S. 20 p. 47-170

Dave Roberts



The vault of Sir Andrew Barclay Walker who died in 1893

MAS Norton Priory Visit

Norton Priory is located just outside Runcorn and was the home to Augustinians up to the Dissolution. The museum has a standing 12th century undercroft leading out to the abbey remains which have been excavated to show the building's foundations. In 1545 the abbey and manor were sold to Richard Brooke who built a house known as Norton Hall incorporating some of the abbey remains. The museum opened in 1982 and consists of 42 acres of gardens and woodland as well as a recently modernised museum building housing the undercroft and a small portion of Norton Hall.

The rain held off for the duration of our visit to Norton Priory which meant the excavations were shown off at their best. The formal tour started at 2.00 p.m. but some of the party arrived early allowing them to view other parts of the museum grounds. The walled garden was in excellent early autumn foliage with plenty of flowers and vegetables still on show. The museum exhibition had plenty of displays including finds to explain the history of the site and excellent audio-visually showing the transition from a monastic site to a manor and finally the museum today.

The focal point of the day was to meet Rob Philpott who is directing the University of Liverpool student dig. There were two trenches, one exposing the Canons' graveyard where three truncated stone coffin burials and a reused coffin lid were found. A trench identifying the location of the moat almost certainly used as fish ponds had also been dug. We were also fortunate to have Patrick Greene attending who started his career at Norton as Dig director in 1971 and was giving the 30th anniversary lecture at the museum that evening after a day working in the trenches.

Thank you to Rob Philpott and Lynn Smith for providing such an informative day. It is such a bonus hearing from those who have the specialist knowledge actively involved with the project. It was a splendid afternoon and possibly we will return in two or three years time when the current excavation project is completed.

Roy Forshaw



Group looking at a relocated grave marker

Online Resources and Talks

These monthly lists started when we went into lockdown in 2020 as a way of helping people keep in touch 'remotely' with archaeological activities and resources.

Now that MAS is returning to quarterly newsletters in the expectation that we shall be able to return to in-person monthly meetings in early 2022, I shall continue to compile monthly Online Resources lists for October, November and December 2021 (unless people beg me to stop!). These will be sent out by email only.

It is noticeable that online talks etc are beginning to dwindle as organisations begin to move back to in-person meetings, and I shall probably simply provide a handful of new resources in each quarterly newsletter from early 2022 onwards.

If you find a resource that you think other MAS members may be interested in, then please do send a link to me so that I can include it and disseminate it through MAS. My contact email is Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk

Forthcoming talks

To celebrate the inscription of the North Wales slate quarry industrial sites as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) will be hosting a free online talk by Louise Barker on Thursday 7th October 5-6pm: Exploring The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales: A Celebration of Wales's New World Heritage Site

Free but BOOK IN ADVANCE <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/event/exploring-the-slate-landscape-of-northwest-wales-a-celebration-of-wales-new-world-heritage-site/>

NB if you miss it, it will be recorded and put on their YouTube channel (see below in 'Previous talks')

The **Roman Finds Group** are holding their autumn conference online on Monday 18th October. There will be 14 talks about finds from excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman sites affected by infrastructure projects (rail, road and sewers, mainly in southern England). Free but BOOK IN ADVANCE at <https://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/>

The University of York is hosting an online seminar on Wednesday 3rd November from 4:00 – 6:00 pm by Prof Jane Hawkes on **Globalising Anglo-Saxon Art**, in which she considers the artistic motifs etc on their own terms, rather than judging them by Western European concepts of ‘classical’ art traditions. FREE but BOOK IN ADVANCE

<https://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/public-lectures/autumn-2021/anglo-saxon-art/>

Date for your diary if you are interested in metals: Sat 13th November. The **Historical Metallurgy Society** will be holding their 2021 **Research in Progress** conference online, hosted by Moesgaard Museum (in Aarhus, Denmark). The newsletter states that ‘We would like to invite all members, students, curators, researchers, metallurgists, commercial archaeologists’ so it is open to everyone. I don’t know yet whether or not there will be a booking fee.

Check website for further details as they become available at <https://historicalmetallurgy.org/> which also has details of publications, online resources etc.

Previous talks

The **Westmorland Dales** Landscape Partnership’s Heritage Talks are continuing and the recording of 1st September’s talk on **local community test pitting in gardens etc** in the village of **Ravenstonedale** is available (along with all of the previous talks) at <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Site/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership/Category/westmorland-dales-heritage-talks>

NB not strictly heritage: but the next two talks are on 6th Oct (conserving species-rich meadows) and 1st Dec (methods of water control in river catchments leading into the Vale of Eden). Free, but book in advance to receive the zoom link.

NNB the partnership is also organising heritage walks again for those prepared to travel to Westmorland. See same website.

The **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)** has a huge range of YouTube items, far too many to mention, including recordings of online talks <https://www.youtube.com/c/rcahmw>

The **Gwynedd Archaeological Trust’s** website has two recorded talks currently available:

Gary Robinson on **Coastal Archaeology of North West Wales** and Jane Kenny on the **First farmers of Wales: the Neolithic period in the North West** at <http://www.heneb.co.uk/newnews.html>

The CBA (**Council for British Archaeology**) Yorkshire group have been very active online during Covid constraints, and have uploaded lots of videos of talks held over the past 18 months. The latest to be uploaded are **four short talks by community groups** about their projects, each of which has received a grant from CBA Yorkshire to encourage community engagement. See them all at <http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/videos/>

More history than archaeology, but I was intrigued by the reasons for surviving documentary records: Friends of Lancashire Archives is delighted to present ‘**Love, hate and the law in Tudor Lancashire: the three wives of Ralph Rishton**’, a talk by Professor Lawrence Poos of the Catholic University of America. Ralph Rishton (circa 1522-1573) was a member of an East Lancashire minor gentry family, *who would have remained in obscurity if his matrimonial career had not left such a substantial trail in the records of courts of law*.

Larry’s talk is available to watch online now, and he will take part in a live online Q&A on Wednesday 29 September at 6pm. For more information and to access the recording please visit the FLA website: <https://www.flarchives.co.uk/>.

Online resources

All periods: Oxford Archaeology’s website hosts a wide range of information on their projects and activities - see, for instance the ‘**Projects**’ tab (early prehistory to a 1940s Spitfire wrecksite) or the ‘**News**’ tab at <https://oxfordarchaeology.com/news>

Great range of resources on **Palaeolithic archaeology at PalNet** <https://palnetuk.wordpress.com/palaeolithic-teaching-resources/>

The **British Museum’s** exhibitions website has just added a bit of information about the **Bronze Age pendant with sun motif** found deposited in a bog in the **Shropshire** Marches in 2018: it is currently at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery until 12th December 2021 and will then travel elsewhere (venues not yet announced) <https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/gathering-light-bronze-age-golden-sun>

You can see information about other exhibitions (both current eg Nero & history of Peru, and past ones) on the BM website even if you don’t want to travel to London.

The recent **community excavations on Little Asby Common** (Sept 2021: one of the Westmorland Dales heritage projects) has a fun

blog with daily updates for prehistoric sites, boundaries and a medieval longhouse.

<https://littlesbythroughthekeyhole.wordpress.com/>

The **Gwynedd Archaeological Trust** has lots of information about a wide range of **projects** including crop marks, landscape, excavations etc at <http://www.heneb.co.uk/newprojects.html>

This includes a link to their latest **Friends' newsletter** (for 2019-2020) which includes information about **excavations** of: an **Iron Age Hillfort** (Dinas Dinlle), a **quarry barracks** & a **Roman site** at Segontium (Caernarfon); information about investigations at **Parc Cybi** near Holyhead, Anglesey- a 20 ha development site with Mesolithic to modern remains, with a new exhibition & book; the **prehistoric origins of Newborough** and investigations of **World War II anti-invasion defences**. See <http://www.heneb.co.uk/YAGGAT2019-2020.pdf>

Another fun blog of **2021 excavations at Dinas Dinlle coastal fort** (near Caernarfon):

Lots of excellent photos and 'snapshot' videos (and stunning views in lovely weather). <http://www.heneb.co.uk/digdiarydinasdinlle2021.html>

And two blogs (September 2021 has been popular for fieldwork!) about excavations at the **Roman villa near Rossett** by Wrexham Museum and Chester University can be found at

<https://youtu.be/SVXrb45pCiw> and

<https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2021/09/25/roman-rossett-digging-a-roman-villa/>

The **Vindolanda Trust**, Northumberland, currently has a research project to **digitise their collections of wooden artefacts** from the Roman fort and extramural settlement. This is working towards a new online exhibition "Digging up memories - making connections" which explores how Roman wooden artefacts can relate to us: evoke memories or emotions and the imagination they spark. The exhibition presents the responses of staff, volunteers, trustees & colleagues about their favourite wooden objects through the medium of audio, video and creative writing displays. The exhibition will be live at www.vindolanda.com from 4th October to 31st December 2021.

A community group formed to try to enhance the **condition of an 'at risk' medieval building** have created a website illustrating their efforts and successes at

<http://islandhouse.wales/>

The **Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)** has several **map-related resources** online including:

- the **Mold Town Plan 1871**

<https://rcahmw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=00a80b3e58da4c9ba316ebf99358981d>

- **Deep Mapping Estate Archives**

<https://rcahmw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c6a414a5042848e291bf2a3d0d626424>

- **GIS map of the Seven Levels near Newport** focused on drainage

https://livinglevelsgis.org.uk/wp_gll_live/wp/court-of-sewers-record-search/

They also host an article by Adam Coward about **Welsh wool and slavery** at <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/welsh-wool-slavery-and-the-built-environment/> with good links to three major investigations into the links between **slavery and UK heritage** by Historic England, the National Trust, and the Welsh Government; as well as links to information relevant to Wales and/or the woollen industry.

An HLF Landscape Partnership project The Land of Iron ran from 2016-2021 and looked at the legacy of the 19th-20th century **ironstone industry in the North York Moors**. Lots of interesting information, short videos, walking routes provided on their website

<https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/looking-after/landofiron>

Newcastle's Discovery Museum has a 360 degree interactive virtual tour of their physical exhibition looking at 300 years of England's Northern Cavalry and its former regiments at

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=GxCbfqJbWLu>

TV programmes on catch-up

A new 5 part series of one-hour programmes on Channel 4: **Bettany Hughes's Treasures of the World** finished on Sat 02nd October and covered Greece, Malta, Gibraltar, Mediterranean islands & Istanbul. All instalments can be seen at <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/bettany-hughes-treasures-of-the-world> which also provides links to 10 other similar series by Channel 4 including ones on Britain's Historic Towns (presented by Alice Roberts), Aztecs, the Amazon, Athens, Wales & several Egyptian topics.

Dan Cruikshank presented **80 Treasures around the world**. Catch up at <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x80ubq1>

BBC have a nostalgic collection of early programmes (first broadcast in 1950s- 1970s) on archaeology including **Animal, Vegetable or Mineral; Chronicle; The grandeur that was Rome; Sir Mortimer and Magnus**. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p018818x>

This is part of a **BBC4 Archaeology Season**. Many series, programmes and short videos on archaeological topics can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0109jnw>

Thanks to Nancy Jenkins & Mark Adams for contributing. Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk

Sue Stallibrass