

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

Our monthly series of winter evening talks resumed on the third Thursday of each month and take place from September 2022 – April 2023

The venue is the Quaker Meeting House (QMH) 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT. It is close to Lime Street and Liverpool Central train stations, and Queen Street and Liverpool One bus stations.

Details of the venue are here: <https://www.liverpoolquakers.org.uk/contact>

Doors open at 7.00pm for coffee/tea/biscuits and the meeting starts at 7.30pm, closing at 9.00pm
The costs to attend a meeting are £1 for MAS members, with visitors welcome at £2

NB The midwinter months (November, the December Christmas Quiz night, and January) will see our meetings held on-line via Zoom, to avoid travel in inclement weather

Programme for autumn/winter MAS talks.

DATE	venue	Speaker	Topic
Sept 15 th	In person	Mark Adams	Why Finding Nothing Can Sometimes Tell Us Something, But Finding Things Is Nicer: Recent (and not so Recent) Excavations on Merseyside and Cheshire.
Oct 20 th	In person	Dean Paton , Big Heritage	The future is Birkenhead (thanks to the past!) https://bigheritage.co.uk/
Nov 17 th	ZOOM	Ian Trumble Bolton Museum	From Small Seeds: The European legacy of a Bolton woman - Annie Barlow's work in Egyptology and elsewhere and her legacy, including items in Bolton Museum's collection
Dec 15 th	ZOOM	MAS XMAS QUIZ	Led by Mark Adams
Jan 19 th	ZOOM	Jane Kenney Gwynedd Arch Trust (GAT)	The Landscape of Neolithic Axes Project: studying a major stone source for Neolithic axeheads in North Wales
Feb 16 th	In person	Current research by students in Liverpool	Three talks about their current research by PhD students at universities in Liverpool Exact details to be confirmed
March 16 th	In person	Dave Roberts	The MAS/NML cemetery recording project at Childwall All Saints Church, Liverpool Title tbc https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/childwall-graves
April 20 th	In person	AGM & Members' evening	Your chance to tell us about interesting things, places and ideas!

IN-PERSON events in LIVERPOOL Sat 12TH & Sun 13TH November

'Open Days' at TWO Churches looking at burial monuments & memorials

information from Prof Harold Mytum at the University of Liverpool (a national leader in the recording of Christian cemeteries, graveyards, and memorials)



We have two events linked to the Being Human Festival 2022 and have set up Eventbrite pages for these if people would like to sign up (though this is not essential - just helps us plan numbers and logistics).

Both are FREE and you can book in advance or just turn up on the day

Cryptic Crypts - St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Toxteth, Liverpool

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cryptic-crypts-being-human-festival-tickets-445243795177>

This will start with talks and then have short, guided tours. We have been working on surveying the crypt and the graveyard with its burial pits and memorials, and four burial vaults in the crypt (one will still be open for viewing). No human remains will be shown (but there will be coffins!). This project has been done in close collaboration with church volunteers.

Saturday 12 November 1.30-4.00



St Patrick's, Toxteth

Breaking the Gravestone Code - at St James Cemetery, Liverpool

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/breaking-the-gravestone-code-being-human-festival-tickets-445251588487>

This would be good for families as well as adults and is outside and allows people to explore the archaeological and historic interest of memorials. there will be activity sheets and staff to answer questions.

Sunday 13 November 1.30-4.00



St James' memorials

Forthcoming non-MAS online talks

A series of online talks by the Church Monument Society:

<https://churchmonumentsociety.org/>

Monday October 31st 5pm Starting with the annual **All Hallows Lecture** taking place on Hallowe'en evening, when Sophie Oosterwijk will deliver the All Hallows Lecture on

Learn How to Die! Moralising Messages on Macabre Monuments

Saturday 5th November 5pm by Elizabeth Blood on **Macabre Swithland Slate Tombstones: Death in the Churchyard revisited**

Saturday 12th November 5pm William Roulston **Commemoration and Burial Practices of the Scots in 17th century Ireland**

Saturday 19th November 5pm Julian Litten **No Corpse, No Monument: Coffins for Vault Burial 1750-1900**

All will take place at 5pm on Zoom. Booking is now open via Eventbrite as follows:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/269655204977>

The School of Forensics and Archaeological Science at the University of Bradford is hosting a series of hybrid public guest lectures at roughly fortnightly intervals during the winter (missing Christmas/new Year)

FREE but register to receive the link for each talk of interest

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/archaeological-forensic-sciences/events/>

The next ones are:

Tuesday 25th October 5.30 pm Caroline Stanford (Landmark Trust)
Lives humble and grand: remarkable finds at Calverley Old Hall

Tuesday 8th November 5.30 pm Jodie Lewis (University of Bradford)
Priddy Marvellous: A New Neolithic ritual landscape in SW Britain

Tuesday 22nd November 5.30 pm Patrick Randolph Quinney (Northumbria University) **The forensic taphonomy of early hominin mortuary behaviours**

North West Medieval Studies seminars take place on Fridays, 12.00-12.50, via Zoom, meeting ID: 965 9278 5849, passcode: medieval
Very wide-ranging in topics, this one may be of particular interest to MAS members although it is historical rather than archaeological:

Friday 11th November 12.00 – 12.50, Jonathan Masters (Lancaster University)
Exploring the economic diversity of Liverpool's medieval borough: the evidence of occupational and place-name bynames during the fourteenth century

Gresham College free hybrid lectures (ie in person and online)

Gresham College has been providing free public lectures on arts and science subjects since 1597 when Sir Thomas Gresham's vision of a college to bring the 'new learning' to Londoners was realised. Talks span a wide range of topics and often feature well-known specialists and communicators. See the lists at

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/lecture-series-2022-23>

FREE but register in advance for each one you are interested in

Finding Britain's Lost Gods (History of Religion)

Professor Ronald Hutton

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/lost-gods>

This is the first series of three sets of lectures devoted to the perennial 'others' of the European Christian tradition, those phenomena which have always been present as active forces or cultural memories in Christian Europe and which theological orthodoxy has regarded as suspect. The first of the phenomena consists of the pre-Christian religions of Europe, defined in Christian tradition as paganism. These were suppressed as religious systems at the time of conversion to Christianity but elements of them survived as major components of literature, art and folklore.

See the website or MAS October Bulletin for full programmes

next in series:

[Paganism in Roman Britain](#)

Wednesday 7 Dec 2022 at 18.00 (ie 6.00pm) Ronald Hutton

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/paganism-roman>

Recorded non-MAS talks

Gresham College: Finding Britain's Lost Gods

First in Series:

[Gods of Prehistoric Britain](#)

Ronald Hutton: originally broadcast live at 6pm, Weds 21 Sep 2022,

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/prehistoric-gods>

NB highly recommended!

The **Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)** has a working group dedicated to facilitating synthetic research. This often requires the use of large quantities of data in readily-accessible formats ('so-called 'Big-Data').

The AIA-Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis (CfAS) working group has developed a new conference format, "Quick Takes: Big Archaeological Topics in 5min or Less".

The inaugural program, “**Quick Takes – Take #1: Big Datasets in Archaeology**”, showcases nine videos of scholars working in a variety of places and time periods. Their contributions discuss various types of big datasets and the different approaches that they take to analyse, curate, and disseminate these data.
<https://www.archaeological.org/programs/professionals/annual-meeting/quick-takes-1/>

Two plenary lectures from the **Viking Congress 2022** are now freely available on the Institute of Irish Studies YouTube channel:

Irish Sea Texts: Word, Text, Deed - public keynote at 19th Viking Congress Prof. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yz9AWq6C80Y>

Vikings, Places, and Contexts: a Welsh perspective Dr Mark Redknap - plenary at 19th Viking Congress
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oc4NytYQ98E>

Other online resources

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) in conjunction with Archaeology Scotland hosted a webinar on 27th Sept as part of Scottish Heritage Month.

Celebrating participatory Archaeology across the UK featured a collaborative project from each of the four parts of the UK. Here are some websites if you would like to find out more:

In Wales, The Caer project focuses on the hillfort in SW **Cardiff**, surrounded by housing in an area with below national (and Cardiff) averages for health, education, income etc: a vibrant, welcoming community project with impressive pooling of skills from anyone who wishes to get involved
<https://archaeologyandconservationcardiff.com/2020/06/05/we-dig-caerau-cardiffs-hidden-hillfort-and-the-power-of-community-archaeology/>

<https://www.caerheritage.org/our-project>

<https://www.caerheritage.org/digitalmuseum>

In Northern Ireland, the low flat land around Binevenagh on the east shore of **Lough Foyle** was chosen by the Ordnance Survey in the 1820s for their first ever complete national mapping survey, led by Colonel Colby. The project attracted many people who enjoy walking and exploring outdoors, but also involved looking for archaeological remains of the OS camps and workstations, recording benchmarks and searching the documentary archives (some splendid illustrations)
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8acecb988fa74be8a0011a468afb2f17>

Heritage Scotland delivered **Lifelong Learning in Lockdown**- online events for dementia sufferers household during covid restrictions, building on previous work with Young Archaeology Club run by people with museum experience. Items were sent out in advance to individual's homes and each event's items were chosen to provide a range of tactile or visual stimuli and activities. The project deliberately set out to provide new learning experiences rather than relying on nostalgic memories and the response from participants shows that this was extremely effective. When travel was allowed, the group met up at selected locations to meet, socialise and undertake further activities

<https://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk/heritage-resources-portal/2021/10/31/lifelong-learning-in-lockdown/>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/an-archaeology-of-dementia/8C09EDA6BE5046860C285354B85DCEB1>

In England, Petuaria Revisited investigates the Roman site of **Brough on Humber**, an important military and civilian site that provided links between the fortress and colonia in York with the North Sea trade and transport systems. Like the Pierhead excavation, passers-by were welcome to drop in and get involved, the town council, traders, etc all became involved as well as local schools and community groups.

<https://petuariarevisited.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlwEH0Hn4Aw>

The NLHF-funded Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership held their second season of **excavations on Little Asby Common** in September and have an online summary, videos and a blog of what they investigated (a **?prehistoric? enclosure and a later longhouse**) up on this limestone fell. The timelapse video records the whole process from digging through surveying and section drawing to backfilling in less than 2 minutes (I can't be the only person who had the Benny Hill music going through my head as I watched!)

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/little-asby-through-the-keyhole-season-two>

there is companion work on **local place names in Asby** parish at

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/whats-in-a-name-the-language-of-landscape-asby-parish>

Formby prehistoric footprints, the publication on 26th September by Alison Burns, Jamie Woodward, Chantel Conneller and Paula Reimer of new research and dating of the footprints on Formby beach was picked up by national news outlets. New dating of environmental materials in the sediments indicate that some of the deposits bearing imprints of human, animal and bird footprint are much older than previously thought. They range from 9,000 years ago to 1,000 years ago.

Lots of news reports eg

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63036911>

here's the citation & abstract of their article

Burns, A., Woodward, J., Conneller, C. *et al.* Footprint beds record Holocene decline in large mammal diversity on the Irish Sea coast of Britain. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* **6**, 1553–1563 (2022). <https://doi-org.liverpool.idm.oclc.org/10.1038/s41559-022-01856-2>

Long-term monitoring along the Irish Sea coast of Britain at Formby has identified hundreds of animal and human footprints in 31 discrete sediment beds. A new programme of radiocarbon dating shows that the Formby footprints span at least 8,000 years of the Holocene Epoch from the Mesolithic period to Medieval times.

In a landscape largely devoid of conventional archaeology and faunal records, we show how species data from the footprint stratigraphy document long-term change in both large mammal diversity and human behaviour. The footprint beds record shifting community structure in the native fauna through an era of profound global change.

As sea levels rose rapidly in the Early Holocene, men, women and children formed part of rich Mesolithic intertidal ecosystems from ~9,000 to 6,000 cal bp, with aurochs [native wild cattle], red deer, roe deer, wild boar, beaver, wolf and lynx. Doggerland was reclaimed by the sea in this period. In the agriculture-based societies that followed after 5,500 cal bp, human footprints dominate the Neolithic period and later beds, alongside a striking fall in large mammal species richness. Stacked footprint beds can form multimillennial records of ecosystem change with precise geographical context that cannot be retrieved from site-based fossil bone assemblages.

Dates for your diary:

SAVE THE DATE for NEXT YEAR!

Saturday 25 March 2023: 10.00am – 4pm WIRRAL HISTORY & HERITAGE FAIR

Hulme Hall, Bolton Rd, Bebington, CH62 5DH (Just off A41 - 5 minutes' walk from Port Sunlight Station)

Explore Wirral's fascinating past! History & Heritage Stalls, Family History, Local Historical Societies, Memorabilia, Books and Postcards,
Free admission, All welcome.

Details at: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

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