

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

Our winter evening talks take place on the third Thursday of each month until April 2024

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. See: <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 During the midwinter months (including January) our meetings are held on-line via Zoom, to avoid travel in inclement weather. Online "doors" open 7.15 for the 7.30pm meeting.

MAS autumn/winter talks programme 2023-2024

DATE	VENUE	Speaker	Topic
Sept Thurs 21 st <small>COMPLETED</small>	QMH	Dan Garner MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)	The Chester Amphitheatre Environs Research Project in Grosvenor Park: Current results from the ongoing excavations by West Cheshire Museums in partnership with the University of Chester. https://www1.chester.ac.uk/news/archaeological-excavations-grosvenor-park
October Thurs 19 th <small>COMPLETED</small>	QMH	Warren Kern MAS	An illustrated talk (including some demonstration items) about local historic objects
November Thurs 16th	ZOOM	Julie Franklin Headland Archaeology	Life and death in a northern milltown: excavations at St Peter's Church, Blackburn Archaeological excavations in 2015 on the site of the former St Peter's church rescued nearly 2000 human burials. The skeletons tell their stories of life in 19 th -century Blackburn, and the way they were buried reveals some unusual practices and beliefs.
December Thurs 14th *	ZOOM	Chair, members	Christmas social & Quiz
January Thurs 18th	ZOOM	Scott Lloyd & Jon Dollery RCAHMW	Current Welsh mapping project using placenames. (exact title tbc) Update with a case study from NE Wales
February Thurs 15th	QMH	3 student short talks	Work in Progress talks by research students at Liverpool universities
March Thurs 21st	QMH	Mark Adams Headland, MAS	Recent investigations at J M Worrall's Ordsall Lane dyeworks
April Thurs 18th	QMH	Chair & members	AGM + short talks by members

Forthcoming online talks

Two per week throughout 2023: Lancaster Museum 100 items podcasts

These twice-weekly podcasts celebrating the Lancaster Museum's centenary can be listened to as soon as they are uploaded. October's have featured (amongst other items) **Roman forceps, a highly decorative 9th century silver mount, and a print of Hornby Castle**, which apparently has links to Richard III, the Gunpowder Plot, 600 gallons of beer, and 40 large cheeses. The whole series is available on the website, so you can go back and see what you may have missed. They cover 50,000 years of interesting items in the museum's collection.

<https://visitlancaster.org.uk/museums/100-years-100-objects-a-century-of-lancaster-city-museums-podcast/>

Saturday 18th November, 10.30am start: City of York annual Archaeology Conference

will be an all-day hybrid event and you can watch it live (or as a recording afterwards) at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX25wYmme98>

The 2023 programme has 7 talks: the Guildhall excavations and recent work at Micklegate by York Archaeology, the Dunnington landscape, Metal detecting finds at Acaster Malbis, Iron Age Wheldrake, hydrological monitoring, and a project on the study of microplastics in archaeological deposits

Society of Antiquaries:

Thursday 02nd November 5.00 – 6.00pm Elizabeth New & Philippa Hoskin

Medieval seals, modern science. An overview of recent developments.

Seals identified and represented individual men and women from kings and prelates to artisans and peasants, as well as offices, institutions, and groups in varied ways. They provide carefully constructed messages about status, power, wealth, occupation, family, humour, piety, location, and connections from the very local to the international. They were made of a hard material, usually metal but sometimes set with stones believed to certain amuletic properties. This talk will focus on the 'active' role of this wax in the process of sealing, and how it transmits information to modern scholars.

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/medieval-seals-modern-science/>

Thursday 07th December 5.00 – 6.00pm Ian Haynes & the Rome Transformed team: **Rome from the Principate to late antiquity: lessons from the Eastern**

Caelian (ie an area of Rome that the team have been investigating). From the extravagant houses of elite families, through successive imperial palaces to the seat of papal governance the area's architecture embodied changing expressions of political power. From the early military stations, through the grandeur of the barracks of the emperor's horse guards, to the building and rebuilding of the Aurelian Walls, this area illuminates evolving ideas about security and imperial control. And from the shrines of the early empire to the world's first Cathedral, it attests successive religious regenerations. This paper introduces the Project's methods, its visualisations of the evolving area, and some of its major findings.

FREE but register in advance at:

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/rome-from-the-principate-to-late-antiquity-lessons-from-the-eastern-caelian/>

Gresham College provide national lecture series by leading specialists
<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all>
all online talks are FREE but register in advance (or watch online later)

Magic, the Supernatural, and the Lost Gods of Europe, Prof Ronald Hutton:
Weds 20th Sept 2023 to 5th June 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/magic-europe>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Weds 20th Oct 2023: Ancient goddesses of sex and war: see recording

Weds 08th Nov 2023: Were there pagan goddesses in Christian Europe?

Weds 14th Feb 2024: Dragons: a history

Weds 06th March 2024: Ritual nudity in history and religion

Weds 24th April 2024: The western magical tradition

Weds 05th Jun 2024: Witch-hunting in European and world history

Evolution: The Big Questions, Prof Robin May,

Weds 4th October to 8th May 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/evolution-questions>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Weds 04th Oct 2023: A small history of big evolutionary ideas: see the recording

Wed, 15 Nov 2023: Random chance in evolution

Weds 20th Jan 2024: Why is there only one species of human?

Weds 07th Feb 2024: a 300,000-year history of human evolution

Weds 20th March 2024: Artificial selection: How humans have shaped evolution

Weds 08th May 2024: Evolution tomorrow and beyond

The Political Imagination of Ancient Greek Ideas, Prof Melissa Lane,

Thurs 19th Oct 2023 to 13th June 2024

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/series/political-ideas>

This website lets you view recordings of past talks and also lets you register to attend a live talk

Free, but you need to register for each talk that you wish to attend live

Dates in this series:

Thurs 19th Oct 2023: Plato and the ideas of political office: see the recording

Thurs 11th Jan 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of justice

Thurs 07th March 2024: Ancient Greek ideas of equality under the law

Thurs 14th March 2024: Democracy: ancient models, modern challenges

Thurs 30th May 2024: Experts in politics: lessons from Socrates and Aristotle

Thurs 13th Jun 2024: Plato's cave: thinking about climate change

Past Online Talks

The City of York Annual Archaeology Conferences have some recordings of their talks on the City of York's You Tube channel.

<https://www.york.gov.uk/ArchaeologyConference>

The **2022 talks included:** archaeological work in response to development within the city, new research into the city's Roman past, management of the City Walls, the new visitor experience and interpretation at Clifford's Tower.

The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership is drawing to the end of its funding period, but all of its very engaging webinars are available to watch at

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/pages/faqs/site/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership/category/westmorland-dales-heritage-talks>

Topics range from Ice Age landscapes, or prehistoric monuments around Shap to 19th century railways, or small farm building structures like churn stands and gate stoops, that give the area such a distinctive rural heritage.

Other online resources

Ancient Crafts demonstrations: James Dilley gives demonstrations of ancient craft working including **metal working and stone tool making** ('flint knapping' and polished stone axes etc). Often, he recreates items found at British prehistoric sites. If you enjoyed MAS's June visit to Ness Gardens with Pete Hommel's experimental metalworking demonstration, or October's evening talk by Warren Kern with his hundred prehistoric stone artefacts, you may like several of James Dilley's You Tube videos, available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ancientcraftUK>

(thanks to Megan & Vanessa for the info)

The Museum of Stone Tools, created by the University of New England, Australia, has many 3-D images of stone tools from various different places, cultures and time periods, and there is information about how some of them were made:

<https://stonetoolsmuseum.com/>

The North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University holds a large archive of films relating to the region. The search engine is very helpful: lots of social history, industrial archaeology (mining, canals, etc). A perfect way to lose an entire wet afternoon browsing and viewing familiar places in the past 100 years or so:

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/north-west-film-archive/search-the-catalogues/film-and-video-catalogue>

(thanks to Maurice for sending this link and info)

Internet Archaeology is an open access online archaeology journal. Recent articles concern a giant **Acheulean handaxe**, **excavations at Pontefract castle**, **Roman silver coinage**, **an early licensed whisky distillery at Blackmiddens Farm**, **Viking weights** and many others!

<https://intarch.ac.uk/>

One of the articles is a comic-book story (based on the publication report) about the **18th/19th century industrial area of Hollis Croft in Sheffield** based on building recording, excavations, old maps and documents. Many MAS members will recognise familiar types of **steel conversion furnaces**, **workers' housing & pubs**

<https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue56/4/>

Cite this as: Rajic, M. and Howarth, D. 2021 *Hollis Croft. A Matter of Time*, Wessex Archaeology. <https://doi.org/10.11141/ia.56.4.comic>

Heritage sites in Cheshire: Andie Byrnes has a blog about heritage sites that she has visited in and around Cheshire: several interesting short articles at

<https://basedinchurton.co.uk/heritage/>

PLEASE contact Sue with information about **online resources** that you think other MAS members might be interested in.

And we would love to hear suggestions for **next summer's fieldtrips** as well. Anywhere you've been this summer that you think others would also enjoy (or sites on your hit list that you haven't made it to yet)?

Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk 29th October 2023

PTO

Sat 18th Nov: IN-PERSON EVENT: CBA NW autumn conference

This year's North West regional conference for the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) will be held on Saturday 18th November at the **British Commercial Vehicle Museum, King Street, Leyland, Lancashire PR25 2LE.**

The museum is easily accessible by road from the M6 motorway and has good public transport connections: <https://www.britishcommercialvehiclemuseum.com/>

Assistance dogs are welcome in the museum. All areas of the venue are wheelchair friendly

The day will begin at 10.00am, with the AGM beginning at 10.30am, a lunchbreak of approximately one hour and the conference ending at about 4.00 p.m.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. There is a café on site and areas for attendees to eat their own refreshments.

Talks will cover:

- recent work in Kendal: the Environment Agency Flood Risk Management scheme,
- excavations by the team at Oxford Archaeology North,
- community excavations of a Bronze Age cairn in Derbyshire,
- geophysical investigations at Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire,
- an investigation into the salt industry in Lancashire and
- community excavations by Salford Archaeology.

The **North West Regional Research Framework** (NWRRF) publication is now available in hardback. This will be available at the conference, free for members on the CBA NW membership list prior to the conference, and priced at £10.00 for non-members.

Tickets cost £12 for CBA NW members and £15 for non-members.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite at <https://tinyurl.com/bdd73nu5> or on the door (subject to availability).