

Forthcoming Merseyside Archaeology Society (MAS) Events:

The next season of evening talks will resume (in-person) on Thursday 21st September

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.

Summer fieldtrips 2023 April – September

There is only one MAS summer fieldtrip left for this year!

If you are interested in attending any or all of them, **please contact the organiser of each outing that you wish to attend to register your interest.**

This provides the organiser with an indication of numbers involved, helps with coordinating travel arrangements, and means that you shouldn't get left behind anywhere!

WHEN	WHERE	MORE INFO	ORGANISER, Book by...
SUNDAY 3rd September £3 cost	Birkenhead Park £3 cost (am) 10.00 am prompt start Birkenhead Priory (pm)	Guided tour of the Park by ranger, + talks by Mark Adams (Spitfire site) & Roy Forshaw (old maps) (am) visit Birkenhead Priory (pm)	Ann Gemmel ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com please book a.s.a.p
Friday 8th – Sun 17th Sept:	Heritage Open Days venues throughout England	You can sign up to receive their newsletter: https://www.heritageopen days.org.uk/visiting	NB St Helen's Church, Sefton 8 th – 10 th Sept: Sue Stallibrass will provide car travel for 3 people from the nearest train station
Thursday 21st September	Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool 7.00 for 7.30pm	MAS Evening talk Dan Garner MOLA	The Chester Amphitheatre Environs Research Project in Grosvenor Park

And if you have any ideas of other outings that you would like MAS to organise next year, then please let Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk know!

MAS autumn/winter talks programme 2023-2024

DATE	VENUE	Speaker	Topic
Sept Thurs 21 st	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	QMH	Warren Kern MAS	An illustrated talk (including some demonstration items) about local historic objects
November Thurs 16 th	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 14 th *	ZOOM	Chair, members	Christmas social & Quiz
January Thurs 18 th	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 15 th	QMH	3 student short talks	Work in Progress talks by research students at Liverpool universities
March Thurs 21 st	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

SUNDAY 3rd September 10.00am Birkenhead Park & Birkenhead Priory



Birkenhead Park (in the morning)

<https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/photos/birkenhead-park> accessed 3rd May 2023

£3 cost per person

Birkenhead Priory & St Mary's Church (in the afternoon)

Picture courtesy of Google Earth. Accessed 31st July 2023 at

<https://lancashirepast.com/2021/09/11/birkenhead-medieval-monastery/>

Preliminary information (further details will be provided to registered participants)

LOCATION & TIME TO MEET: Meet at 10.00 am outside the Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre, on Park Drive (off Park Road North) Birkenhead CH41 4HY. Please be ready to start your guided walk (which **costs £3 per person**) at 10.00 am prompt.

TRANSPORT: Morning: Plenty of public transport or you can travel by car see: <https://birkenhead-park.org.uk/your-visit/how-to-get-here/>

Afternoon: The fieldtrip organiser(s) will help people arrange transport between Birkenhead Park and Birkenhead Priory, which also has public transport access

<https://thebirkenheadpriory.org/visit-us/>

Birkenhead Priory, Priory Street, Birkenhead CH41 5JH

ORGANISER: The visit will be led by Ann Gemmel, Chair of MAS

BOOKING: to register your interest and book places, please email **Ann Gemmel**

ann.gemmell1@btinternet.com to express interest by 7th August if possible.

It would also be helpful if you could indicate whether or not you are interested in moving on in the afternoon to visit Birkenhead Priory.

TIMINGS: The guided tour of Birkenhead Park by park ranger Scott Brennan will take 1.5 hours starting from outside the Visitor Centre at 10.00am. Please be ready to start walking at 10.00. There will be a couple of further short talks. The group will move on to Birkenhead Priory and lunch can be eaten at either venue. Please contact Ann for further details.

LUNCH: bring your own (to eat at either venue), or visit the Park café, or obtain light refreshments at the Priory or one of the nearby eateries

FACILITIES: Birkenhead Visitor Centre has a café that is open every day from 09:00 to 16:00 <https://birkenhead-park.org.uk/your-visit/food-and-drink/>

The Priory serves cold drinks and snacks and has a useful list of nearby eateries

<https://thebirkenheadpriory.org/refreshments/>

PTO... cont.....

Both venues have toilets.

THE VISIT will include: Morning: After Scott Brennan's guided tour, Mark Adams will talk a little bit about the investigations into the Spitfire crash site, and Roy Forshaw will provide information from old maps, showing how the landscape was altered to create the park.

Afternoon: At the Priory, you can explore on your own or join one of the free guided walks that are provided every Sunday afternoon starting at 1.00pm or 2.00pm (no need to book) <https://thebirkenheadpriory.org/event/guided-tours/>

HAZARDS: Please wear comfortable footwear and bring sunscreen, waterproofs etc. Some parts of Birkenhead Priory have steps

FYI: Birkenhead Industrial History venues: The MAS Events team had originally planned to visit one or two industrial heritage venues in Birkenhead, following on from Dean Paton's MAS talk about Big Heritage's plans to promote them. Negotiations about leases etc are taking longer than hoped, so they are not yet available (all three sites are currently closed).

However- if you are interested in visiting the **Grasshopper Engine at Shore Road Pumping Station, Birkenhead**, this will be open specially on **Saturday 9th** September at 12.00, 13.30, and 15.00 as part of the Heritage Open Days. FREE but Booking is essential, through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shore-road-pumping-station-heritage-open-days-tickets-679318338437>

Friday 8th – Sunday 17th September: Heritage Open Days

This is the annual festival that sees many heritage sites and venues in UK either open to the public when they are usually not accessible, or open for extra times and/or special events <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

This is a national (England) event, so if you are somewhere else in England in early to mid-September, it's worth checking to see if there's anything of interest there.

There are almost 100 in-person events in Merseyside and similar numbers in Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester etc.

Weekend of Friday 8th – Sun 10th Sept Sue will be visiting **St Helen's Church, Sefton**, Bridges Lane, Sefton Village, Liverpool, Merseyside, L29 7WG

Sue can arrange to pick up people who need to travel by train and shuttle them between the venue and Blundellsands & Crosby station (Merseyrail, Northern Line from Hunts Cross to Southport).

This is an informal 'come and join me if you'd like to' sort of fieldtrip!

The exact date and time will be decided by Sue after people have contacted her to express interest.

The Grade I listed church was founded in 1170 but the oldest fabric is 14th C and most is early 16th C. There are brasses and a lot of fine carved wood including the 19th/20th C ceiling, Tudor screens, choir stalls, pews and Mouseman furniture (made by Robert Thompson).

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/sefton-st-helens-church>

If you are interested in having a lift from the station, please contact Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk and state your preferred date and half of day (ie morning or afternoon).

MAS September 2023 Forthcoming Programme & Online Resources

NB Trains are every 15 mins Mondays to Sats but only every 30 mins on Sundays.

The church will be open:

Friday 8th Sept: 1.30 – 4.00 pm
Saturday 9th Sept: 11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday 10th Sept: 1.30 – 4.00 pm

People who can travel by car are, of course, welcome to join us!

And if you are interested but not on those dates, the church is also open the following weekend but Sue is away so cannot provide lifts.

The 133 bus goes past Sefton church and Lunt Meadows once an hour on Mondays to Saturdays but there is no Sunday service. See timetable for times and route:

<https://merseytravel.adidocdn.dev/timetables/Bus/133-22Jan23.pdf>

NB if you are travelling independently, you may wish to also visit **Lunt Meadows** which is literally next door (footpath access on the other side of the pub car park, or drive along to the nature reserve's own car park). This wetland nature reserve (wear suitable footwear) contains the remains of some **Mesolithic structures** investigated by Ron Cowell as a community archaeology project for Museum of Liverpool. See:

<https://www.lancswt.org.uk/nature-reserves/lunt-meadows> and
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/lunt-meadows-sefton>

DIY visits:

Here are some **Merseyside** examples from the **National Heritage Open Day** list (plenty more nearby in Cheshire, Lancashire & Greater Manchester).

All Saints Church, Childwall This is the church and graveyard that several MAS members, led by Dave Roberts, have been studying for several years. The church and churchyard will be open to the public and the church tower will also be open (which only happens on Heritage Open Days)

Saturday 9th September 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Sunday 10th September 2.00 – 4.00 pm

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

St Helen's Church, Sefton will be open on:

Friday 8 September: 1330-1600

Saturday 9 September: 1100-1600

Sunday 10 September: 1330-1600

Friday 15 September: 1100-1600

Saturday 16 September: 1100-1600

Sunday 17 September: 1330-1600

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/sefton-st-helens-church>

Williamson's Tunnels, Liverpool will have guided tours on:

Saturday 9 September: Tours: 1100, 1200, 1300 & 1400

Sunday 10 September: Tours: 1100, 1200, 1300 & 1400

Saturday 16 September: Tours: 1100, 1200, 1300 & 1400

Sunday 17 September: Tours: 1100, 1200, 1300 & 1400

Places must be booked in advance

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/friends-of-williamsons-tunnels-williamsons-tunnels1>

Wavertree lock-up you can go inside on:

Sunday 17 September: 1200-1600

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/the-wavertree-lock-up5>

Cannington Shaw No. 7 Bottle Shop, St Helens, is having a pop-up shop

Friday 8th September 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Saturday 9th September 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/cannington-shaw-no.7-bottle-shop-pop-up-shop>

New Brighton Heritage Centre (note two-hour timeslots)

Friday 8th September 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Wednesday 13th September 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Friday 15th September 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/new-brighton-heritage-centre>

West Kirby Museum will be open all day (usually open Sats 10 – 1) on

Saturday 9th September 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/west-kirby-museum-and-history-fair>

And there is also an opportunity to book a place on an Old Village walk from the museum and several other events including geology of building stones- just search for ‘**West Kirby**’

Hilbre Island will have two of the buildings open to the public (NB need to be fit to tackle the one hour crossing each way across the tidal causeway)

Saturday 9th September 11.00 am – 3.00 pm

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/hilbres-telegraph-station>

St Michael’s Church, Shotwick is a fascinating old country church, well worth visiting.

Grade I listed building, bellringing demonstrations, have-a-go hand bell ringing, self-guided tours of the church and graveyard, tower open (splendid views over the Dee).

New for this year: guided walks of the village at 11 am, 12 noon, 2 pm and 3 pm

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/st.-michaels-church-shotwick>

There are too many events to mention in Wirral, but they include a tour of ‘Viking’ Thingwall led by Steve Harding, Dave Capener & Sue Bishop, walks in Storeton Woods (industrial quarrying & transport etc), Rock park social history of **Oxton** (and many other Oxton walks), heritage walk and talk Magazine Brow in Vale Park, Great Meols human and natural history walk, Hoylake walk.

Walks and tours nearly always need booking to reserve a place.

Other places open to the public include several in and around **Bidston**: Bidston windmill, Bidston lighthouse and Bidston Observatory, and the **Bidston Community Archaeology** excavation at Tam O’Shanter urban farm (Sunday 10th September 10 – 4)

Forthcoming online talks

Monday 4 September 19.00 – 20.00 Dr Ian Faulds **Political Piety: International pressures on a mediaeval Manx parish church**

FREE but register in advance at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/political-piety-international-pressures-on-a-mediaeval-manx-parish-church-tickets-663427307937?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwAR0CANU4Q-FDvis4Lp2s1QV4RDXmJB63uwsorKHM0Dlxt3qD-G9rA6vmD4>

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. August's have featured a Viking Derham from Warton and a prehistoric leaf-shaped arrowhead. 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/museums/100-years-100-objects-a-century-of-lancaster-city-museums-podcast/>

Society of Antiquaries

Thursday 5th October 17.00 – 18.00 ie 5 – 6pm Ian Thackray **Forging Iron from the Sky**. Experimental archaeology by two modern blacksmiths, recreating a

necklace found in 1911 by Flinders Petrie in Tomb 67 at Gerzeh, which included beads of meteoric iron that fell in Gebel Kamil, lapis lazuli, carnelian, gold and bone
FREE but register in advance at:

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/forging-iron-from-the-sky/>

Gresham College (who provide national talks by leading specialists) have just announced their forthcoming 2023-2024 online lecture series:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all>

all online talks are FREE but register in advance

NB all are recorded and can be watched later (particularly relevant to the Greek Philosophy series which are on the same dates as MAS talks!)

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>

Evolution: The Big Questions, Prof Robin May,

Weds 4th October to 8th May 2024

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

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>

Past online talks

The **Society for Church Archaeology** has recordings of numerous past lectures available on their website at:

<https://www.churcharchaeology.org/events>

including Prof Harold Mytum & Anna Fairley: **Investigating the Catholic experience of the 19th-century burial crisis: non-Invasive archaeology in the crypt and churchyard of St Patrick's Church, Toxteth, Liverpool**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMJ7pZYjwkE>

The **Society of Antiquaries of London** has recordings of several talks by leading experts available on their YouTube channel at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdW1zR19oxD3JAPmkYWdU5g?view_as=subscriber

Other online resources

The Snowdonia National Park has lots of information about industrial heritage, archaeology, cultural heritage, castles, folklore etc at:

<https://snowdonia.gov.wales/discover/history-and-heritage/>

The Carneddau Landscape Partnership includes a community project investigating a Neolithic stone axe factory near Llanfairfechan (near Penmaenmawr, off the A55 between Conwy & Bangor) and has two videos from last year's activities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKR9hJ1nIP8&t=1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXx8-0KNOgl&t=54s>

NB they are holding a further week of community volunteer test-pitting days starting 25th September:

https://snowdonia.gov.wales/product/landscape-of-neolithic-axes-community-archaeology/?_gl=1*1ulhzt0*_ga*NDgxMjYzMTM4LjE2MTQ4NTMwOTA.*_ga_2SRYFPWD50*MTY5Mjc4NjUxMi4yNS4xLjE2OTI3ODY5OTUuMC4wLjA

Dates for your diary (mostly in-person events but some may be hybrid)

15th - 17th September 2023 in **Liverpool**, in-person only

The Church in North West Britain and its Connections

full conference programme available at:

<https://www.churcharchaeology.org/current-conference>

(The **Society for Church Archaeology Annual Conference 2023**)

The society's conferences are open to all and anyone interested is welcome to participate (but you do have to pay to attend the main conference & fieldtrip to Norton Priory!)

Saturday 16th September 5.30 – 6.45pm Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral:

Keynote lecture by Prof Harold Mytum (FREE but limited spaces & need to book through Eventbrite)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/society-for-church-archaeology-annual-conference-2023-tickets-649961019907>

PLEASE contact Sue with information about **online resources** and talks 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 24th August 2023