MAS 2014 Lecture and Fieldtrip programme

Our lectures are held at The Quaker Meeting House in School Lane in the City Centre. The room is booked from 7 p.m. for tea and coffee and lectures start promptly at 7.30. All welcome - including non-members.

Lectures

Thursday, 17th April
AGM followed by a talk from Kerry Massheder
‘Liverpool’s Court Housing: An Oral History Project’

Fieldtrips

Thursday 19th June (evening).
Visit to Liverpool Library

Saturday 12th July 2014
Field visit to Rainford

September (date tba)
Visit to Knowsley Park and Prescot,

Further details regarding these trips can be found in this Newsletter on page 2.

If you have heard a particularly interesting talk or site visit please pass the information on to Gina as an idea for a future event. Georgina.Musket@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Merseyside Archaeological Society

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

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

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Merseyside Archaeological Society on Facebook

You can now follow us on Facebook:-
http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1481822652#!/groups/151058304987687/

Merseyside Archaeological Society
Web Site: http://merseysidearchsoc.weebly.com
2014 Fieldtrips

Visit to Liverpool Library, Thursday evening 19th June 2014

An evening visit to Liverpool Library has been arranged for MAS members on 19th June. We will be guided by an archivist around the refurbished building and there will be an opportunity for a ‘look behind the scenes’ in the new archive store and conservation area. Numbers will be restricted on this visit so booking is essential. To reserve a place email Maurice Handley at: mahandley@tesco.net

Field visit to Rainford on Saturday 12th July 2014 - leader: Samantha Rowe

Rainford, seen today as a large semi-rural village, was formerly a hive of industrial activity which included the manufacture of pottery, clay smoking pipes, brick, tile and earthenware drain pipes, as well as extensive coal mining, stone quarrying, peat recovery and sand extraction for the glass industry.

Samantha Rowe has led a very successful community archaeological project in Rainford. On the walk you will get the chance to explore the changes and developments in the village core and learn more about the history of local landmarks. The Rainford’s Roots community project has unearthed thousands of ceramic objects in the last year or so and this is your chance to visit the sites and hear first hand from archaeologists about the discoveries and their significance to the archaeology of the North West region.

For more information on the Rainford archaeology project visit www.rainfordsroots.com/

Rainford is reached from the A570 which runs between the M58 (J3) and the East Lancs Road (A580). Church Road (B5203) is the main road running through Rainford. Parking is available opposite the Community Hall at the junction of Mossborough Lane and Church Road. There is also restricted parking opposite the church [SD 479007] or behind the church with access by the side of the Golden Lion.

There is a frequent bus service from St Helens Bus Station which is close to St Helens Central Railway Station. Arriva 38 takes about 20 minutes.

We will meet at the Parish Church at 10.30 am For those wishing to have coffee and visit the toilet beforehand we suggest the Rainford Deli which is about 300m from the church on Ormskirk Road. Walk north from the church with the Golden Lion on your left and after passing the Eagle and Child look for a group of shops on the right. The Rainford Deli is the last one in the group. There is limited parking by the side of the shops.

The walk will be split into two loops with a break for lunch in the village centre. It is suggested that you bring lunch or alternatively there are several places in the village where you can purchase food etc.

Visit to Knowsley Park and Prescot, September

We hope to visit Knowsley Park and Prescot in September. Details will follow when arrangements have been finalised.

The Merseyside Historic Environment Record Reopens

The Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) began as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in 1977. It was intended to be a county record for all known archaeological sites and to record archaeological work and new discoveries. It was hosted by National Museums Liverpool until the closure of the Merseyside Archaeological Advisory Service in 2011. From April 2014 the HER will be maintained and operated by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service. There is a newly appointed Historic Environment Record Officer, Dr Ben Croxford, who will be dedicated to the digitisation and enhancement of the HER, the first time the HER will have had such a post. There will also be an HER Project Officer, funded by a grant from English Heritage, who will be in post for two years to assist with the process. The first task will be to digitise the old paper records of the SMR. These consist of about 10,000 entries covering sites, findspots and later buildings dating from the Mesolithic to the 18th century, with some coverage of industrial and Second World War sites. This information was largely collated during the Archaeological Survey of Merseyside, carried out to build the SMR from 1977 until the mid 1980s.

The designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, etc.) of Merseyside will also be included in the HER. Incorporating this information offers an opportunity to ensure they are correctly recorded, to maximise our knowledge about the historic environment and to develop the HER into a comprehensive and reliable digital resource.

Subsequently, all data generated by archaeological excavations in recent decades (currently generally only available as grey literature reports produced by archaeological contractors) will be processed and incorporated into the HER. Following the completion of that...
Once the service is established there will be opportunities for volunteering: assisting in the data cleaning, research and enhancement work on the HER. Further details will be made available once this becomes possible. We will also want to hear from local societies and researchers, to incorporate their findings and to work with them in developing the HER as a resource for them to use.

The HER is intended to be used as a resource to ensure archaeological/historic environment concerns are featured in the planning process. Getting the information currently held on paper into a modern digital database is the important first step in this process. Until the digitisation process is completed it will not be possible to easily assist in any research or general interest enquiries. Eventually, however, the resource will be made publically available online via the Heritage Gateway website (http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/). There is an interim charging policy for commercial enquiries. The HER service can be contacted via Merseyside.HER@eas.sefton.gov.uk.

Dr Ben Croxford
Historic Environment Record Officer
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

MAS Council

In the next few Newsletters we shall be including a brief profile of Council members. We start with our most recent and longest serving members:

Martin Cox (Hon. Secretary)

Thank you to all members and the Council for the very warm welcome I received back in December as the newest (co-opted) member of the Council and also on taking up the post of Hon Secretary. I am very happy to assist the Society in this respect and will do my utmost to serve the very best interests of the Society as a whole. My humble apologies to anyone who has been victim of errors or blunders I may have made but I am learning fast (or hope so)!

My background has been as a volunteer with the highly successful Rainford Roots Project and before that as a history teacher. I have always been interested in landscape history and the use of primary evidence in the classroom has been a lifelong passion. I have long threatened family and friends of my intention to disappear on an archaeology dig and the Rainford Roots project turned up on cue (I live in Rainford). It is a totally absorbing project and a golden opportunity to learn from highly professional people who are also great company – even friends! It seemed a natural progression to be involved with MAS and widen my education further, one which I greatly enjoy.

It is my hope that I can contribute to the current debate as to how we might widen our MAS membership, particularly to volunteers, students, schools and young people – very much the future of MAS.

Please do feel free to contact me with your suggestions, interest or concerns. I am always happy to hear from you.

You can find me at: 86 Lathom Drive, Rainford, St Helens WA11 8JR
Email: martincox3@hotmail.co.uk

Dave Roberts (Hon. Treasurer)

I have been a member of MAS from its foundation in 1976, apart from a 4 year break in the late 1970s and early 80s. Since then I have continuously served on the Council and represented the Society on more than one occasion as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In recent years I have also been heavily involved in the production of the Society Journal and acted as editor of this Newsletter.

I have a degree in Prehistory and Archaeology from Sheffield University and have participated in excavation and fieldwork projects in Britain and abroad but my main activities and interests have always been within Merseyside having participated as a volunteer in many archaeological projects run by National Museums Liverpool. In 2007 and 2008 I organised and ran the grant funded MAS projects which produced the Changing Face of Liverpool and Calderstones booklets. I am currently overseeing the MAS graveyard recording project at All Saints Church, Childwall.

Outside MAS I also sit on the committee of the Council for British Archaeology (North West) where I am newsletter and web site editor.
Rainford’s Roots project update

Over the winter the Rainford’s Roots community project has been focusing on processing the finds, researching, and archiving the reports from fieldwork carried out in 2013. Four excavations and one building recording, as well as a lot of historic research equals a lot of paperwork! The team has had fantastic support and assistance from volunteers who have helped to process the material uncovered in the field.

18th century up to the early 20th century and cover the span of known industrial activity on the site. The assemblage also contains pipes with stamped maker’s marks which can help us to identify the individual maker of a pipe. A catalogue of decoration and bowl types has been established for the Rainford library site, which can be used as a reference guide for future investigations and will also form an important part of the finds report.

Recent events

Behind the scenes museum tours

Getting volunteers involved in post-excavation activities on the project has given them an insight into the time and resources required to process material once work on site is complete. The project team recently ran ‘behind the scenes’ tours of the archaeology stores at the Museum of Liverpool, where people got a chance to see the collections that are not currently on public view, and to handle some of the items in the Regional Archaeology Collection, including material from Rainford, Prescot, Eccleston, and Buckley in North Wales.

Wirral History and Heritage Fair

The project hosted a stall at the Wirral History and Heritage Fair on Saturday 1st March. Over 70 local groups and societies were present and hundreds of people attended on the day which was a great success. The project stall had recent finds on display from Rainford, including pottery and clay tobacco pipes, as well as on sale MAS journals.

Rainford library artefacts – clay tobacco pipes

Last August the team excavated the back garden of Rainford library; the site of a former clay tobacco pipe workshop. The team has been working to get the clay pipes from the site catalogued and researched. Over 8,000 clay pipes have now been catalogued from this one site alone and have revealed a lot about the local cottage industry. One of our volunteers spent a week with us researching the clay pipes and wrote a blog on her experiences, which is available to view on the project website http://www.rainfordsroots.com/blog.html.

Clay tobacco pipes were made in huge numbers throughout the industrial period and were discarded frequently as they broke very easily. Rainford was a significant centre for the manufacture of clay pipes from the early 17th century and a large quantity of fragments have been discovered through chance finds and excavations in the village.

Clay pipes are not always the most exciting finds on digs, but they are great for dating sites and give an insight into local manufacturing practises. Pipes recovered from Rainford library date from the mid...
On Tuesday 11 March the project team were at Rainford library, teaching people the various aspects of finds processing including how to mark finds and how to take impressions from stamped clay tobacco pipes. There was a great turn out, and a photographer from the local newspaper attended.

**Upcoming spring and summer events**

The project will be at Cheshire Archaeology Day on Saturday 26th April at Winsford Lifestyle Centre. Talks will take place on local archaeology and there will be book stalls and local societies present.

Two exhibitions of finds from Rainford will take place this July for the Festival of Archaeology: one exhibition will take place in Rainford library, and the other will be in the Museum of Liverpool. More details will be available nearer the time on our website.

More heritage walking tours around the historic village of Rainford will be taking place this summer. If your group or society would like to book a tour, please contact the project. Tours are free and walks range from easy to moderate terrain.

**Elizabethan Extravaganza! Rural Tudor craft day - Saturday 2nd August**

The project team are running an event on Saturday 2nd August at Rainford Parish Hall. Rainford’s Roots invites you to attend ‘Elizabethan Extravaganza’; a rural Elizabethan craft fair. The event is free and everyone is welcome (costume optional!). Take part in traditional crafts such as candle making and spinning, meet costumed Elizabethans and musicians, sample food and drink of the day, listen to a wise woman share stories of myth and folklore and hold birds of prey. All this and much more…

**Get in touch**

Rainford’s Roots is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help out with the project. You can contact us:
By email rainfordsroots@gmail.com or telephone 0151 4784560

Up to date information including the latest project news and volunteer blog posts can be found on our website www.rainfordsroots.com

*Sam Rowe*

**9th century runic stone at Overchurch**

The ninth century runic stone, discovered at Overchurch, has been reconstructed by Big Heritage for a pop-up museum at the Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead on Wirral. The decoration is a mixture of Mercian and Northumbrian influences but it is the runic inscription that makes this fragment particularly interesting. The inscription reads:

“The people raised up a monument; pray for Aedelmund”

The inscription may seem simple enough but the raising of the monument by the people to commemorate an individual is very unusual, as monuments were usually raised by individuals for individuals. In terms of its regional importance, along with the Sandbach Crosses, this is the earliest stone sculpture from Cheshire and the only one with a runic inscription from the Anglian period.

Only a quarter of the original monument survives but there is enough of the form and decoration to infer its original shape and likely decorative repertoire. The shape of the reconstruction is all extrapolated from the surviving fragment. The surviving angles of the monument indicate that it would have bulged at its centre. This gives an approximate length of 1.2m and a width of 0.6m at its centre. This shape is found at other sites of a comparable date with similar designs, such as Levisham 5, East Yorkshire. Its function is not clear. It could either be grave slab or possible cover for a sarcophagus.

As with any reconstruction taken from a partial fragment, there is an element of guesswork involved but this is always based on the surviving evidence. The design is a mixture of extant decoration on three of the of the six sides and influences taken from other monuments from the same time period with similar decoration, such as the beast on Side C of Otley ?, in West Yorkshire, which the decoration on the side of the Overchurch reconstruction was largely based on.

The colour scheme was inspired by stone sculpture with surviving paintwork, such as the Lichfield Angel. Using these extant monuments, it is possible to copy their colours, such as black, red, yellow and white. It was also highly probable that these monuments were sometimes adorned with gilding, metalwork and gems but there is no sign of this on the Overchurch fragment.

Reconstruction has two major benefits. Firstly, they are a great way of helping the public visualise stone sculpture, which is often fragmented, heavily worn and rarely has its paintwork surviving. Secondly, the process of reconstructing a piece of early medieval stone sculpture is also incredibly informative, in terms of understanding decorative choices, layout and design. Occasionally it is possible to identify where mistakes have been made and subsequently rectified.

*Dean Paton*

*Big-Heritage*
MAS were delighted to welcome Dr Seren Griffiths from Manchester Metropolitan University at their well attended evening meeting on Thursday 20th February where she gave a short presentation on a brilliant new project aiming to provide new information about heritage sites and their locations using 3D digital models, which can be generated from digital photographs.

Dr Griffiths, through a range of examples, demonstrated conclusively how 3D imagery can advance our understanding of heritage sites by revealing previously unnoticed markings on ancient stones or revealing how sites had been constructed.

Martin Cox, Hon Secretary writes: “I think all of us are aware of the increasing pace of change in new and smart technology. However, its application and potential for archaeology is amazing. There was huge interest from our audience who recognised the benefits, not least by the fact that anyone of us could make a contribution – a digital camera is all that is needed”.

Researchers at Bangor, Aberystwyth and Manchester Metropolitan Universities have collaborated with Gwynedd Archaeological Trust to coordinate the project whose focus is on a range of monuments throughout North Wales. However, Seren has encouraged us to make a Merseyside contribution which will be acknowledged by the project and a subsequent exhibition. No doubt the example of this important project will be replicated as research proceeds.

The project has a real community dimension. Members of the public will contribute to the project by uploading digital photographs of heritage sites that they visit. From these photographs researchers will be able to generate 3D models. This “citizen science” will allow a much greater coverage of monuments leading to a comprehensive catalogue of the heritage of North Wales, providing new research into the state of monument preservation, providing new views of monuments and new evidence of monument use (in the form of rock art, for example).

At the end of the project, the 3D models will be freely and publicly available to provide a research resource for members of the public and researchers, through the Historic Environment Record and via Archwilio. The project will acknowledge the contributions of all individuals to the project, and contributors will be invited to the project exhibition, highlighting the 3D modelling results. At the exhibition a number of citizen scientists will be acknowledged who the project feels have made an outstanding contribution to the project.

Dr Seren Griffiths writes: “We’re really excited about this project. Members of the public can actively help co-produce a digital record of the archaeology of north Wales. This will be an invaluable resource, to produce 3D digital representations of these monuments; to better understand the landscape, and inter-relationships of different sites; and to provide a visual archive of the current conditions at individual sites. Part of the output will be a display using a special touch surface table, which users can call up and display information on the sites. We’re very interested in responding to themes people are interested in, so if members of MAS had a pet project they’d like to record, we’d very much welcome that. If people were interested further, I’d encourage them to come to our open days at Barclodiad y Gawres passage tomb on 14th June 2014; Bryn Celli Ddu on the 21st – 22nd June 2014; and at Bryn Celli Ddu again on 26th July 2014.”

More details and information can be found at: www.heritagetogether.org

Martin Cox & Seren Griffiths

Visits to the Museum Store - 2 views....

Rooting Around - A behind the scenes archaeology tour

You may be surprised to learn that the 700 items on display in Liverpool’s Museum constitutes less than one per cent of the total collection. The remainder, with additional items from other local museums, are kept in the Museum’s storage facility located in deepest north Liverpool. As part of the Rainford Roots project, a small number of participants, guided by curator Liz Stewart, were taken on an interesting and informative tour of the impressive stores.

First was the Land Transport store room where we saw bicycles, bath chairs, carriages from Croxteth Hall and a superb Vulcan Car made in Southport early in the 20th century. Next we climbed the stairs to the Antiquities section which holds artefacts from all over the world. The high point of our visit was on the top floor where the regional finds included those from Rainford. We were allowed to handle some of the pottery from Rainford, particularly the flared cups of early post medieval age. Alongside these were similar finds from Prescot including a large storage jar and an unsuccessful attempt to copy a German cup. There was also more elaborate pottery from Buckley in North Wales with raised slip decoration and sgraffito where the decoration is scratched through the slip.
Finally we were shown several drawers full of flint implements and were able to hold axe roughouts from Mynydd Rhiw on the Lleyn peninsula and a few of the fine collection of Neolithic arrow heads. The latter looked in almost pristine condition especially alongside rusty iron arrow points from medieval Meols. The time spent in the store passed very quickly and having seen only a fraction of the stored items, we wished we could have stayed for a whole day.

Maurice Handley

Museum Stores Tour Report

The 25th February was my second day on placement in the Museum of Liverpool Archaeology Department and I was taken to the museum stores to assist with, and take part in, the ‘Behind-the-Scenes’ tours of some of the thousands of objects which are not currently on display in the various museums on Merseyside. After meeting the people who had booked onto the tours at the train station, we saw the Antiquities Department stores, with artefacts from around the world, including beautiful, intricate metalwork and pottery from North Africa and Peruvian ceramics from one of the museum’s earliest collections.

We viewed part of the transport collection, my favourite part, where we saw a range of different antique vehicles, from simple horse-drawn carts to opulent carriages to an early 20th century automobile. Several of the carriages had belonged to the Earl of Stanford, and had come from Croxeth Hall. There were even bicycles, wheelchairs and street vendor’s carts, many in almost perfect condition. Unfortunately, we weren’t allowed to sit in the vehicles or take them out for a test drive! They were still an amazing sight.

Finally reaching the Regional Archaeology section, we listened to a talk from the Curator, Dr Liz Stewart, on the finds from the 5 excavations undertaken by the Rainford’s Roots community archaeology project, that have taken place in the area in the last 14 months. We were able to handle some of the more complete finds, showing the kinds of pottery being produced in the area from the late 16th through to the 19th century. We also saw some of the finds from the same period and region that are stored in the museum archives. Of the whole Regional archaeology collection from Merseyside, about 10% comes from the Rainford area!

Kara D’Arcy

Neolithic Stone Axe from Caldy

This stone axe head was discovered in a garden in the Caldy area of Wirral and brought in to the Portable Antiquities Scheme for recording. It is a broken stone axe head dating to the Neolithic period (c 4000-2500BC). The axe is sub-trapezoidal in plan with convex curved faces. Both the butt end and cutting face have been knapped and re-flaked, perhaps for a secondary use or for re-hafting. The faces of the axe are worn with scratch marks and the polished surface is faded. The stone is a light greenish brown colour, possibly a volcanic rock originating from the Scafell Pike area of the Lake District. You can view the full record at www.finds.org.uk/databaserecord number LVPL-FA1F01.

Caldy Stone Axe

There are currently 158 records of stone axes recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database. 14 of these have been recovered from Cumbria, 1 from St. Helens recorded as LVPL-7D4596 1 from Cheshire recorded as LVPL-8F10F8 and this example from the Wirral. Due to their construction material stone axes are usually found by members of the public while gardening or field walking and are found less frequently by metal detector users. This accounts for the small numbers recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database compared with later copper alloy axes.

Vanessa Oakden
Finds Liaison Officer, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside.

Old Dock Tour

For Members interested in the archaeology and heritage of Liverpool, this tour is a must!

The tour takes you to visit the oldest standing structure in Liverpool-the Old Dock. The tour starts at the Merseyside Maritime Museum, walks over to Liverpool 1, and then enters the Old Dock beneath the shopping centre. The tour takes about an hour and is run by Danny and Yazz-two very knowledgeable, humorous and enthusiastic guides. Warning-this report contains spoilers!

The Old Dock in Liverpool was the first commercial (used purely for trade) enclosed wet dock in the world. It was designed by Thomas Steers, a canal engineer and best friend to the Lord Mayor, in 1709 with construction starting in 1710. In 1715 the first three ships sailed into the dock and it had its official opening in 1719.

The Old Dock design included locked gates to control tide levels enabling efficient loading and unloading from ships no matter the tide. At capacity the dock could hold up to one hundred ships, although the highest recorded number at one time was eighty two ships. It is as a result of this dock that Liverpool expanded as a city and became the gateway to an empire. Due to the trade the Old Dock attracted, workers housing was built in the surrounding area and businesses soon followed suit. The Old Dock was so financially successful that other docks were constructed in Liverpool to take advantage of the trade. Danny and Yazz were keen to point out that,
as an archaeological site that has impacted our present, the Old Dock is more important than Stonehenge (and as a Post Medieval Archaeologist I agree!).

The Old Dock closed in 1826, both as a result of ships being built bigger and therefore unable to fit into the dock and due to the amount of human waste being dumped into the dock. The Old Dock was sealed so new buildings, including a new Custom House (1839), could be built on the site.

The tour stops outside the Hilton to explain the significance of the architecture of Liverpool 1 shopping centre. Interestingly, the grey path leading from the Hilton to John Lewis represents the route of the river and can be followed through the city centre. Liverpool 1, particularly the area surrounding the Bierkeller pub, was designed so its aesthetics represented Liverpool Castle (despite Liverpool Castle being located at Castle Street, where the modern day law courts are situated). The water fountains also have a hidden history: look down and see the inscribed information on the pavement. William Hutchinson spent twenty-nine years observing and recording high tides. His studies have resulted in the water fountains levels representing high tides and the grey tiles representing the coast line.

John Lewis (on Custom House Place) stands on the site of the Original Custom House and outside is the Old Dock viewing hole (often confused as being a well!) which gives a sneak peak into the site. Sadly the glass of the viewing hole has been damaged due to an attempted break-in.

The Old Dock Tour is an outcome of a nine year archaeological investigation conducted by Oxford Archaeology North, who started initial excavations in 2001. The tour itself allows you to view the north-east corner of the Old Dock, the rest is under Liverpool 1 shopping complex, in situ but filled with sand. The Old Dock site is three and a half acres and about one twentieth of the Old Dock wall is currently visible. The location available for viewing on the tour was selected for accessibility-a hole in the Old Dock wall enabled a walkway to be constructed around the archaeological remains. The Old Dock wall is constructed of hand made bricks rather than stone like later docks. Bricks were made in a kiln on the quayside to enable the wall to be constructed with speed. William Bibby supplied the lime mortar which archaeologists noted was particularly strong and certainly contributed to the walls excellent survival. Potentially, stone from the ruins of Liverpool Castle was used in the construction of the Old Dock, with additional stone coming from the nearby yellow sandstone quarry next to Liverpool Cathedral. Danny and Yazz provide visitors with a rich account of the history and heritage of the Old Dock and point out particularly interesting aspects of the wall such as engineering supports, the failed waste pipe and tunnel entrances.

I found the tour interesting and entertaining and enjoyed seeing the archaeological remains in situ and well preserved. The tour is a wonderful opportunity to gain access to the Old Dock and learn more about its history. Tours take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10.30am, 11.30am and 2.30pm. The tours are free but must be booked in advance via the Merseyside Maritime Museum on 0151 478 4499.

The Old Dock is often quoted as being ‘The heart and start of Liverpool’ and after this Old Dock Tour you may well agree!

Kerry Massheder

Young Archaeologists Club

What it means to be a Young Archaeologist....

What do you like about the Mersey and Dee YAC’s?

I like the variety of the sessions. We have different themes each month learning topics relevant to archaeology, the historic environment and historical events. I particularly like socialising with like minded people.

More recently I have enjoyed the increased responsibility of guiding the new and younger members of our branch.

What are your favourite memories of YAC from the last ten years?

In no particular order!

- The visit to the Williamson Tunnels.
- Being interviewed by Barney Howard as part of his Big Toe Radio Show on Radio 5.
- A trip to York to explore the historical city and visiting Jorvik.
- Visiting Birkenhead Archaeology Society.
- Test pitting in the grounds of a local pub.
- Meeting and working alongside professional Archaeologists.

What have you learned during your time with YAC?

Many things! I have learned how to excavate, how to analyse archaeological finds and leadership skills. During my work experience at National Museums Liverpool I was placed in a mentoring role, working with school groups, which I really enjoyed. He I also helped to deliver tours of the docks.

What would you like to do in the future?

I would like to become an Archaeologist and/or teach Archaeology, History and Heritage.

Daniel Ford