

Past Forward

Celebrating Forty Years of Merseyside Archaeological Society

**8th and 9th October 2016
Museum of Liverpool, Education Room 3**

Abstracts

Peter Davey

Archaeology on Merseyside 1976 to 1985: people, projects and potential

Founder member and first Chair of Merseyside Archaeological Society reflects on the events of 1976 which led to the formation of the society, the functions and priorities of the Society and its achievements in its first twenty years.

Rob Philpott, University of Liverpool & Freelance Archaeological Consultant
Merseyside Archaeological Society - a personal view of the last 30 years

A personal view of the last thirty years, looking at the role the Society has played in fieldwork, research and publication within the region. In addition, the Society's involvement in the growing area of community archaeology and in promoting and preserving the heritage of the region will be briefly discussed.

Gill Chitty, University of York

Making Merseyside: Metropolitan identity to localism in an era of public archaeology

Merseyside Archaeological Society was founded to protect and encourage public interest in the archaeological heritage of the new Merseyside metropolitan authority formed in 1974. As the MAS celebrates its 40th year, this paper constructs a biography of its achievements and evolution, drawn from the records, publications and experiences of the last 40 years. It considers what is formative in the making of a resilient local archaeological group. How does its history reflect broader shifts in public policy and heritage practice, from creating a new metropolitan heritage identity in the 1970s to the present era of public archaeology and community heritage?

Norman Redhead, University of Salford

Merseyside's Archaeology in a regional context: a short history of archaeology policies and practice in North West England

Taken from a local government archaeologist's perspective, this talk will chart four decades of changes in the way archaeology has been protected, investigated, promoted and engaged with in the North West of England. It will review our current situation and look forward to key challenges and opportunities.

Samantha Rowe, University of Huddersfield*Rainford's Roots: Archaeology for All*

Join Sam Rowe to see some of the exciting finds from Rainford and explore the ways in which the project engaged people with the past. Sam will recount experiences of working on this project 2011-2014 and the successes it achieved. Discussion will also explore 'lessons learned' and the way projects can deal with tricky issues.

Mark Adams, Museum of Liverpool*Edited Highlights: Community Archaeology at National Museums Liverpool Since 2005.*

The first community archaeology project run by National Museums Liverpool (NML) was trial trenching on the site of 19th century housing at Stanley Bank, St. Helens. This developed into a successful HLF funded project investigating the industrial archaeology of the upper reaches of the Sankey Canal and generated links between NML, St. Helens Council and a diverse range of local groups. Since then NML archaeologists have collaborated on several community led projects and this talk will present a personal overview attempting to examine what worked well, what sometimes didn't work quite so well, and will look at some future possibilities.

Mike Nevell, University of Salford*Local Research Frameworks for Local People? Capturing the archaeological research impact of community and local groups*

This paper will give a brief over-view of the range and volume of community and local archaeological work using the North West as a case study area. It will look at: the impact of local networking and the HLF on archaeological research since 2000; problems of dissemination and access to this new material; and assess the potential of the revised *North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* for engaging, capturing and disseminating the impact of the work of local groups.'

Jamie Quartermaine, Oxford Archaeology North*Community Archaeology and a new direction for researching landscapes*

Landscape archaeology has seen a dramatic change of fortunes over the last five years. For many years our unimproved open landscapes have been examined by management surveys which have entailed systematic walking across uplands and large estates, resulting in large numbers of dots on maps extending over enormous areas. This process has been invaluable for management purposes, allowing for the conservation of an extremely valuable resource, but it has done little to improve our understanding of the archaeology as there has been little or no detailed mapping, analysis or assessment of the individual sites. The funding for this type of survey has in any case dropped off in recent years, but in its place has emerged funding from HLF to undertake landscape community surveys and this is now providing a new resurgence in Landscape archaeology. These surveys are allowing for the production of detailed mapping and analysis of some very significant archaeological sites and the process has been both rewarding for the participants and immensely valuable for our understanding of our wider archaeological landscapes.

Karen Gavin, Big Heritage

Funding outside the box: Lasting impact on the "Other" volunteer

As funding becomes ever more difficult to secure as archaeologists we sometimes need to look at alternative sources of funding. This may produce the need to deliver projects in diverse ways. By using a recent project funded by Cheshire West and Chester Council Health Department as a case study I will discuss how projects with differing requirements can be successful in engagement with the community as well as still being archaeologically robust.

Ben Croxford, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

The MAS, the ASM, the SMR and the HER – recording Merseyside's Archaeology over the last 40 years and looking ahead.

The Merseyside Archaeological Society was founded in response to the realisation that archaeological sites, and the opportunities to investigate them, were being lost due to redevelopment. One of the first actions of the newly-formed society was to call for a survey to be carried out, identifying all of the known potential sites of interest in the then County of Merseyside. Starting in 2014 the results of that first survey began to be digitised, resulting in the new and improved Historic Environment Record for Merseyside. Though this phase of work is now finished, there remains much to be done with updates and new discoveries waiting to be added, work which volunteers and community groups can play a key role in.

Kerry Massheder-Rigby, University of Liverpool

Exploring the past with Archaeologists of the future: The Mersey and Dee Young Archaeologists Club

The MAD YAC's have been involved in a number of Merseyside Archaeological Societies fieldwork, activities and events over the years and the society has provided local young people with opportunities to gain practical experience.

The workshop will look at some of the more recent projects the MAD YAC's have taken part in and share lessons learned. The workshop will involve audience participation, some hands-on activities and an opportunity to discuss how to engage young people in local Archaeology and Heritage.

Vanessa Oakden, National Museums Liverpool

To record or not to record – tackling bias within PAS

When dealing with a large data set it is important to consider biases and be aware of what they are but how much do our own biases influence what we record? When finds are brought to the Portable Antiquities Scheme to be recorded already choices have been made which influence what data we gather. Did detectorists pick a field just off a main route or go further out of their way, did the finder only select the best or the tricky finds to show? When recording those objects is more effort put in to a 'more interesting' period. This workshop will dig into to the different types of bias which we need to be aware of and ask how we should tackle 'selection' of objects in order to provide the best possible archaeological data.

Rob Lennox, University of York

From interest to influence: How to be an advocate for archaeology

The CBA seeks to protect archaeology by lobbying for proper regulation, recognition, and support for the historic environment. We rely on our members not only to support our work, but also to speak up themselves for the things that matter to them. This talk will explain how everyone can be an advocate for archaeology - and it's not half so difficult as you think!

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Speaker Biographies

Mark Adams

Currently Curator of Regional & Community Archaeology at Museum of Liverpool, Mark Adams has worked as an archaeologist for over 30 years, 22 of them on Merseyside. This has involved excavations and watching briefs on sites ranging in date from the late Prehistoric to the late Post-medieval and an equally diverse range of site types. Currently Chair of MAS, Mark has organised several community archaeology projects for Museum of Liverpool.

Gill Chitty, University of York

Dr Gill Chitty is Director of the Conservation Studies MA programme and [Centre for Conservation Studies](#) at the University of York. Before joining the Department of Archaeology in 2012, Gill was Head of Conservation at the Council for British Archaeology responsible for research and policy. She has over 30 years professional experience working in conservation and public archaeology, as a consultant, with local authorities and in English Heritage. She began her career in Merseyside County Museums (now the Museum of Liverpool).

Ben Croxford, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

Ben Croxford is the Historic Environment Record Officer for Merseyside. He has worked for commercial archaeology companies across the UK and was previously the HER Officer for Kent.

Peter Davey

Peter Davey is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at the University of Liverpool, Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology Department. He carries out research into the archaeology and social history of tobacco pipes and pipe smoking in the early modern and modern periods. In particular he is interested in the social and economic interpretation of groups of clay tobacco pipes from controlled archaeological excavations. Current projects include the analysis and publication of pipe assemblages in Argentina, northern Ireland and Austria, as well as Britain. Peter was founder member and first Chair of Merseyside Archaeological Society and continues to be involved with their work.

Keith Dobney, University of Liverpool

Keith Dobney began his zooarchaeological career working at the Institute of Archaeology in London. Early research into human and animal palaeopathology and zooarchaeology led to a PhD in Archaeological Science at the University of Bradford. Keith has held academic positions at University of York, Durham University, and Aberdeen University, and is now Head of the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of

Liverpool. Keith is first and foremost an archaeologist, but over his career has become more fascinated by the biology of the past and how that intersects with and impacts human behaviour and cultural development. The inherent cross-disciplinary nature of archaeology as a field of study has also allowed me to develop this interest further through the intersection of a range of other disciplines.

Karen Gavin, Big Heritage

Karen works part time as a community archaeologist at Big Heritage. After completing her degree as a mature student at the University of Chester she began some post graduate research whilst at the same time volunteering on community projects being run by Big Heritage. She was offered a paid internship with them, which resulted in an offer of permanent work. Her work with Big Heritage mainly revolves around community and educational projects, including the preparation, delivery and post excavation process.

Mike Heyworth

Mike Heyworth has been Director of the Council for British Archaeology since 2004. He has a particular interest in public archaeology and the role of local societies and volunteers in archaeology. He is also currently leading the Heritage 2020 initiative to encourage collaborative working across the historic environment sector in England, as well as acting as Secretary to the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group at Westminster. He was awarded an MBE for services to archaeology in 2007.

David Jennings, University of York

Rob Lennox, University of York

Rob Lennox coordinates the Local Heritage Engagement Network project at the CBA which seeks to help local groups to speak up for their local heritage. He also works for the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as Policy Advisor.

Kerry Massheder-Rigby, University of Liverpool

Kerry Massheder-Rigby is currently studying towards a PhD in Archaeology at the University of Liverpool and working as Project Coordinator on the Accentuate History of Place project based in Liverpool <http://historyof.place>. Kerry is experienced in commercial and community archaeology, heritage project development, management and delivery, outreach and training (various audiences) and conducting oral history interviews. She shares her knowledge and experience with young people through the Mersey And Dee Young Archaeologists' Club, where she has been an Assistant Leader for four years.

Mike Nevell, University of Salford

Dr Mike Nevell is a landscape, buildings and industrial archaeologist with more than 28 years' experience. He is co-editor of the international journal Industrial Archaeology Review, a trustee of the Council for British Archaeology, Chair of the ClfA Buildings Archaeology Group and Chair of CBA North West. Author of many books on a wide variety of archaeological topics (including industrial archaeology, buildings archaeology, and the archaeology of the Manchester area), he is currently Head of Archaeology at the University of Salford.

Vanessa Oakden, National Museums Liverpool

Vanessa Oakden is the Portable Antiquities Scheme's (www.finds.org.uk) Finds Liaison Officer for Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. Having worked for the scheme

since 2008 Vanessa has recorded over 14,842 archaeological object found by detectorists, field walkers and gardeners which range in date from Prehistory to the 1700s.

Rob Philpott

Rob Philpott works as an archaeological consultant in NW England, and was until recently Head of Archaeology at National Museums Liverpool. His first encounter with Merseyside's archaeology came in 1983, working with Peter Davey on the post-medieval pottery from South Castle Street, Liverpool, a culture shock for a Roman archaeologist! There followed three decades of work in the region, including significant projects such as Irby, Meols, Halewood, Liverpool and most recently Hilbre. Further afield, recent projects have involved excavating sugar plantations in Nevis and surveying colonial sites in the Falklands. He has been a member of MAS since 1984, for much of that time serving on the council and occasionally as chairman. He is a part-time lecturer in Continuing Education and a Research Assistant in the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool.

Jamie Quartermaine, Oxford Archaeology North

Jamie Quartermaine has been a project officer and then project manager at OA North since 1984, and has considerable experience of all aspects of commercial archaeology. He has specialised in landscape recording and building surveys, and is one of the leading authorities in the study of archaeological landscapes. He has published monographs on the archaeological landscapes of the Lake District and the archaeology of Thomas Telford's Holyhead road through North Wales.

Jamie is a qualified land surveyor, and has striven to develop landscape and building recording techniques, which vary from the introduction of GPS techniques in the early 1990s, to laser scanning, LiDAR, GIS and, more recently, modern photogrammetry techniques. He has extensive experience of training in all aspects of digital recording and was involved in the training of a Nepalese survey team to undertake a comprehensive recording programme of a large 17th-century palace on the outskirts of Kathmandu.

Norman Redhead, University of Salford

Norman has spent 26 years providing archaeological planning advice for the ten Local Planning Authorities of Greater Manchester. During this time he managed the Historic Environment Record, including delivery of a major Historic Landscape Characterisation project, and promoted community engagement and research. He spent 4 years as County Archaeologist and Director of Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU) prior to becoming Director of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service at the University of Salford in 2012.

Samantha Rowe, University of Huddersfield

Samantha Rowe is currently studying towards a PhD in archaeology at the University of Huddersfield. She has worked on Historic Characterisation Projects and Community Archaeology projects. Sam became involved with Merseyside Archaeological Society in 2011 when she joined National Museums Liverpool as a Community Archaeology Trainee under the HLF/CBA Skills for the Future programme. Sam was the Project officer for MAS's Rainford's Roots Project – an HLF-funded community archaeology project which engaged hundreds of local people in archaeological fieldwork, research, and events to explore the potting and clay pipe industries of the village of Rainford, St Helens.

