



# News north-west

Twice-yearly newsletter of the CBA north-west regional group

**Council for British  
Archaeology North-West  
Regional Group**

Registered Charity No  
1081620

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CBA North West publishes two newsletters each year, in the spring and summer/autumn. Contributions are invited from Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside on all aspects of archaeology in the North West. If you wish to contribute information which you feel would be of interest to members of CBA NW, please contact the Hon Secretary. Please note that contributions may have to be edited.

## **CBA North-West autumn meeting**

**Saturday 23 October 2004**

The autumn meeting will take the theme of prehistory in the region and will be held in Blackburn Cathedral Crypt. Please see the enclosed programme and booking form for further information. Local societies and units working in the region are invited to bring displays and publications to the meeting; if you would like to do this please indicate on the booking form.

### **New Director for the CBA**

Dr Mike Heyworth FSA MIFA MCMI has been appointed as the new Director of the CBA; he succeeded George Lambrick on 1 August 2004. Mike Heyworth has worked for the CBA for the last fourteen years, most recently as Deputy Director. During his career at the CBA, he has made a major contribution to British archaeology in the development of information systems for the whole historic environment sector. Amongst a very wide portfolio of responsibilities Mike is currently particularly involved with developing the CBA's role in encouraging public participation in archaeology. CBA North West congratulates Mike on his new post and looks forward to continuing working with him.

### **Group spring meeting 2004**

This year's Spring meeting was held on Saturday 17 April at Mellor, near Stockport, hosted by Mellor Archaeological Trust. On a glorious spring day John and Anne Hearle invited us into their hilltop garden on the site of an Iron Age hillfort. Fringed by the Pennine Hills, the views in all directions were quite spectacular and we could only speculate on the potential for other prehistoric sites in the vicinity.

The meeting was held in the excellent facilities of Mellor Parish Hall and a full programme of reports gave us an insight into different aspects of public involvement in archaeological fieldwork. Over 100 adults and 300 Year 6 children from six schools had been involved in Simon Askew's excavations in a heavily

urbanised area around the thirteenth-century Moston Hall in north Manchester. The project generated a sense of community spirit, pride and awareness of the past and over 2500 people had attended an open weekend. Jamie Quartermaine described the Lathom Park Project. This, in a rural environment that hitherto had lacked a spirit of community, brought people together in a range of archaeological fieldwork, historical research and social activities. John Roberts' excavations at Mellor and work by Derek Pierce for the South Trafford Archaeological Group showed how volunteers of all ages may participate in important excavations. Pete Connolly emphasised the importance of getting people to ask questions of the evidence they find in excavation - where did the building stone come from? By what processes did that ditch silt

up? What happens when a building collapses?

These excellent presentations showed us how every one of us has something to contribute to the investigation and understanding of the past. Archaeological activities are not just confined to excavation. To find out what is available check with your local Society, browse through CBA's Briefing which accompanies their publication *British Archaeology* or check through Current Archaeology's *Archaeology Handbook 2004/5*. Alternatively, log on to the CBA's website [www.britarch.ac.uk/briefing/briefing.htm](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/briefing/briefing.htm) or the *Current Archaeology* website [www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk). Have fun!

**Jen Lewis**

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held during the Spring Meeting. We are most grateful to all the retiring members of the Executive Committee for allowing us to benefit from their experience and advice - Peter Iles, Phil Miles, Rob Philpott, Dave Roberts, David Stanley and Adrian Tindall. At the same time we are pleased to welcome Zosia Archibald, Helen Caffrey, Peter Carrington, Carolyne Kershaw, Mike Nevell, David Shotter and Robert Travis who join Jen Lewis, Julie Edwards, Marlene Nolan, Bill Aldridge, Barry Faulkner, Anthony Martin, Lynn Smith and Jenny Woodcock to make up a full committee. We are fortunate that Committee members continue to represent both the amateur and professional community. If you are interested in joining the Committee next year, contact one of the honorary officers (see page 1).

## Interested in planning issues? Concerned about your local environment?

From time to time many of us become concerned about the implication of planning and development proposals on archaeological sites and historic buildings but are at a loss to know how to respond in an effective manner.

The Council for British Archaeology has developed a series of ten factsheets to provide information about the planning system in England with the aim of helping local groups and individuals to understand, and become more involved in, planning issues in their area. Although written at a time of reform to the planning system in England, they are intended to provide a brief introduction and will be amended when such reforms come into effect. The fact sheets can be downloaded from CBA's website [www.britarch.ac.uk/conserves/conservation/](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/conserves/conservation/).

If you are particularly interested in buildings, you may be interested in becoming a CBA Buildings Correspondent - a network of local people who provide information to CBA's Historic Buildings Officer to enable her to formulate relevant responses relating to archaeology and buildings. A fact sheet relating to Archaeology and Buildings in England can be found at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/factsht9.shtml>

If you do not have internet access copies of the fact sheets can be obtained from CBA, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 9WA.

**Jen Lewis**



## John and Val Lord bring prehistory to life!

On Saturday 28 February 2004 over twenty-five YAC members were enthralled to see how prehistoric people would have worked with the environment in order to eat, keep warm, cloth themselves and build shelter.

The young people were able to have a real hands-on experience as John and Val Lord guided them through the safe use of a variety of prehistoric tools and equipment. We learnt how to fashion needles from bone, knap flint into spectacular shapes to perform a variety of tasks from felling trees to cleaning animal skin, and even how to 'conjure' fire from only a hand full of dried plants, a wooden stick and some thread. A truly magical experience - much more meaningful than just striking a match!

Some lucky members under John's close supervision had a chance to see how they would fare if they needed to spear a deer for tea! Just as well Norton Priory's refectory was open, we soon discovered just how difficult a skill this was to master as we rescued the spear from a nearby tree!

Our grateful thanks go to CBA NW for their generous donation without which we could not have run the day and, of course, to John and Val themselves. The day was one that we will all remember as a rare and enlightening experience, providing a remarkable introduction to our prehistoric themed year of meetings.

**Lynn Smith,**  
Mersey & Dee YAC Branch  
Leader

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For information about CBA NW grants, contact the Hon Secretary (see page 1).

## The Portable Antiquities Scheme in the North-West

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary recording scheme for archaeological objects found by members of the public. It encourages finders to record their discoveries with the local Finds Liaison Officer or museum. There are now two Finds Liaison Officers in the North-West: Nick Herepath, based in Liverpool Museum, has been joined by Faye Simpson at the Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Faye here summarises the work of a Finds Liaison Officer and Nick, with Angela Care Evans of the British Museum, describes a rare Anglo-Saxon find from Cheshire.

Since starting in December 2003 as Finds Liaison Officer for Lancashire and Cumbria, I have had a vast array of archaeological finds brought in to me to identify and record, from polished axes found in peoples' back gardens to Roman coins found by metal detectorists on a farmer's field. One of the first objects to be brought in was a beautiful fourteenth-century silver annular brooch, decorated with three shields which was found by a local metal detectorist and fell under the Treasure Act. Also numerous medieval coins have been recorded, including a hoard of Mary and Elizabeth silver coins and a hoard of short-cross pennies.

Along with dealing with these treasure cases which have increased fifteen-fold

since my appointment, there has been a phenomenal increase in finds in general which has added to our knowledge of the archaeology of Lancashire, from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. This increase of recorded finds is due to the amount of varied outreach work that I am involved in, including holding regular open days at museums around the county, visiting metal detector groups, working with schools and giving talks to historical and archaeological societies. These all help inform and educate people about the archaeology of Lancashire, but also encourage the public to take an active interest in archaeology by reporting and recording finds on the Portable Antiquities Scheme national database (FS).

## Anglo-Saxon sword pommel from Mouldsworth, Cheshire

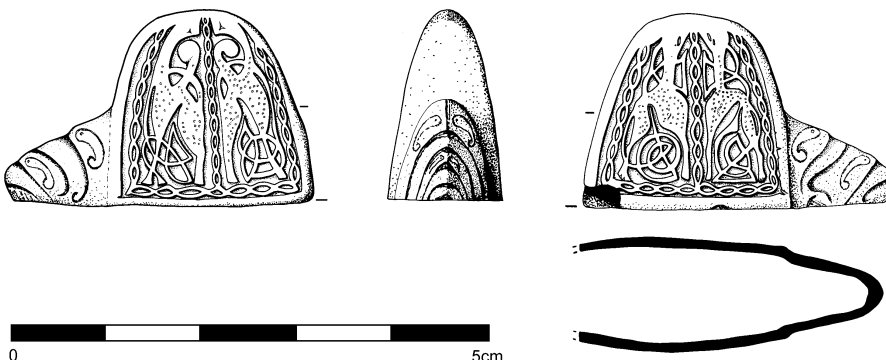
A silver-gilt sword pommel cap dating to the eighth century AD was found by Mr D Slaney whilst searching with a metal detector in a field in Mouldsworth, Cheshire in May 2003. The pommel cap consists of a domed central element originally flanked by low shoulders in the form of a stylised animal head. One of these is torn away. The central element is decorated on both faces with a pair of quadrupeds, reserved against a gilded field and standing within a frame of loose figure-of-eight interlace. The design is subtly different on either face. One is decorated with a pair of addorsed (ie back-to-back), winged quadrupeds (perhaps canines: Leslie Webster and Janet Backhouse, *The making of England, Anglo-Saxon art and culture, 600–900*, British Museum Press, 1991, 226, discussion of cat no 182), with long arching necks and small heads turned to face the opposing animal. On the other side, the animals, now wingless, face each other. All four bodies are ornamented with spots of gilding.

In overall form the Mouldsworth pommel cap is almost identical to a pommel from Windsor, Berkshire and

to one from the Thames foreshore at Chiswick Eyot (Webster & Backhouse, cat nos 180 and 181). It is a useful addition to the group in that the stylised animal head forming the shoulder of the pommel is in excellent condition compared to these two pommels. Although similar in style and concept, the decoration on the Mouldsworth pommel is different from the other two pommels in that it is based on paired animals on an interlaced field rather than interlacing serpents. Examples of similar paired animals can be seen on a silver gilt disc brooch from Flixborough and a triple-pin set from the river Witham, both in Lincolnshire (Webster & Backhouse, cat nos 69c and 184).

This zoomorphic ornament is typical of the later part of the eighth century. Metal finds from this period are rare in the North -West, the most notable example being a bronze pectoral cross with gold decoration found at Faddiley, Cheshire in 2000 which is now on display at Nantwich Museum. At the time of writing the pommel is in the process of being acquired under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 by the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

For more information about the Portable Antiquities Scheme see their website at [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk). Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside) can be contacted on 0151 478 4259; email [nick.herepath@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:nick.herepath@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk). Faye Simpson (Cumbria and Lancashire) can be contacted on 01772 264061; email [Faye.Simpson@mus.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:Faye.Simpson@mus.lancscc.gov.uk)



## CBA weekend event and AGM

Belfast 8 –10 October 2004

The CBA's second weekend event is to be held in Belfast, where it will follow directly on from the ceremony for the British Archaeological Awards, to be held at Elmwood Hall, Queen's University Belfast on the afternoon of 8 October 2004.

The event will be held at two venues: the Wellington Park Hotel and the Ulster Museum. The programme includes: presentations on the archaeology of Ulster and visits to archaeological sites; the annual Beatrice de Cardi lecture, to be given by Julian Richards; and an audience with Julian Richards for local YAC branches. The CBA AGM will be held on Sunday morning, and the weekend finishes with a discussion of current issues relating to archaeology in Ulster. A dinner and wine reception are also planned.

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For further information see the CBA website: [www.britarch.ac.uk](http://www.britarch.ac.uk) or contact Dr Mike Heyworth, CBA, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 9WA 01904 671417, [mikeheyworth@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:mikeheyworth@britarch.ac.uk)

## Chorley & District Historical and Archaeological Society

### 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Society held its first public meeting in 1953 and its first AGM in 1954, so this year it is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. The Society was formed with the aim of

promoting the study of local archaeology and to create further interest amongst Chorley people about the archaeology and history that surrounds them. It was the first archaeological society in central Lancashire.

Chorley and District Archaeological Society, as it was first named, came about when the late John Winstanley and Jack Smith, during research to find flint-chipping sites on local moorland, contacted the late Alderman Charles Williams, a well known local historian; Mr Williams felt that the formation of a society could further their research into the prehistory of Chorley and Lancashire. Mr Williams was elected the first Chairman, Mr Winstanley the Secretary and Mr Smith became Treasurer. Today Jack Smith is Honorary Secretary of the Society, a post he has held for 33 years.

In 1970 the society was reconstituted to include historical studies as one of its objectives and became known as The Chorley and District Historical and Archaeological Society. Since its foundation the Society has been involved in a wide variety of projects covering excavation, survey, field-walking, documentary research and monument recording. The Society has been celebrating with a packed programme of talks, fieldwalks and outings. A special exhibition was also held at Chorley Library during August.

Society meetings are held on the second Tuesday each month at the Centre for the Blind, Crown St, Chorley starting at 7.30pm. For further information about the Society's activities see their newly established website at [www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk)

## Lancaster University Archaeology Certificate

The first year of this new venture has seen between twenty and thirty part-time students registered, with more courses planned for next year. Courses are held at Clitheroe, Slaidburn and Darwen as well as Lancaster, and may be daytime, evening or weekend. Topics so far include archaeological methods, Neolithic–Bronze Age stone circles and burials, the Picts, Egyptology and Medieval landscape. A set of courses can accumulate sixty points of Level One degree credit, but for those without the time (or inclination!) for homework the courses offer the opportunity to follow an archaeological theme. Wherever appropriate regional sites are highlighted and field visits undertaken.

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For more information contact Gerry Cotter, Director of Studies, Department of Continuing Education, Lancaster University, Lonsdale College, Lancaster LA1 4YN. Telephone 01524 592627.

## Ancient crosses and holy wells of Lancashire

Volume III, Blackburn Hundred, is now available in the revised version of H Taylor's *The ancient crosses and holy wells of Lancashire* (1906), with photographs and OS references; price £12. Available post free from The Treasurer, The North-West Catholic History Society, 11 Tower Hill, Ormskirk, Lancs, L39 2EE.

See the last newsletter for details of volumes I and II.

## John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA

It is with much sadness that we report the death of John Samuels on 20 June 2004 at the age of 51.

John came to Liverpool in the early 1980s as Assistant Director of the new Liverpool Rescue Archaeology Unit. John believed that anyone interested in the past could become involved in archaeology. With a committed interest in adult education, he became involved in extra-mural work at Liverpool University, running a teaching excavation at Lydiate Hall over a couple of seasons and, through a number of successful day schools, he encouraged surveys of vernacular buildings. John returned to Nottinghamshire to work for the WEA and recently ran his own archaeological consultancy from his home in Normanton on Trent, Nottinghamshire.

As David Freke, former Director of Liverpool Rescue Archaeology Unit, said of John on hearing of his death: 'We had a lot of fun together in Liverpool, as well as doing some good work, and his energy and ambition were well harnessed through his consultancy business. His beard went before him as a wonderful symbol of his character!' John, you will be much missed by your family, friends and the archaeological world.

Jen Lewis