

Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll try to answer.

What do archaeologists do while in lockdown? One or two members have signed up for Dig Ventures' on-line course 'How to do Archaeology' or have joined in their virtual archaeology pub quiz (Google it if you don't know what I'm talking about). You could watch the You Tube talks by a variety of experts celebrating Time Team's Mick Aston's life and times – under the title 'Dig Nation', another Dig Ventures undertaking. Or you could revisit, again via You Tube, quite a few of the original Time Team series, including Series 1, Episode1, with a very slim and hirsute Tony Robinson.

Or, you could dig in your own back yard!

Long-standing members may remember a young professional archaeologist who helped lead our 2013 Bourne Hill Big Dig. Clare is now Project Officer for York Archaeological Trust and lives in Norton, a suburb of Malton, North Yorkshire. Currently furloughed due to the current crisis, Clare obviously was missing the feel of dirt under her nails and so decided to do a spot of digging in her garden. This wasn't a random decision however; she and her partner Mary-Ann have already taken over a neglected allotment and have done a lot of digging there.

The decision could have been prompted by the outcome of some work done in their street by the local water company which revealed, some 2 metres under the tarmac, the skeleton of a possible Iron Age or Romano-British former resident.

(Star shows approximate find spot). We'd already jokingly discussed the possibility/probability of

their house being close to a Roman cemetery and maybe they could have a look under the garden decking but I didn't think they'd take my suggestion seriously.

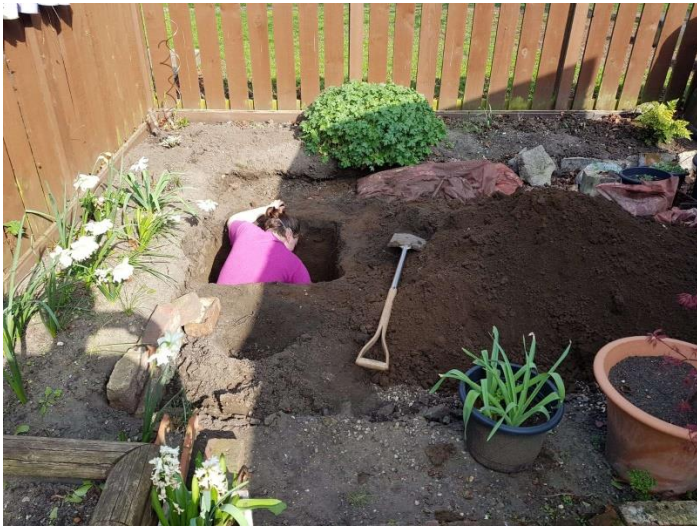


Former Norton Resident discovered and photographed by Yorkshire Water



Malton, on the River Derwent, was the site of a Roman fort named in the 2nd century Antonine Itinerary as *Deruentione* and often referred to today as *Derventio Brigantium* (**white rectangle**). A road (**red dashes**) crossed the river and ran south-east along the line of the modern road and evidence of Roman occupation (**white circle**) had been found in previous years. Only vague partial earthworks now remain as evidence of the fort.

Back to Clare's garden, however, (not far from the white star), where decking had been removed to permit planting of an herbaceous border...



I suppose it would qualify as a *sondage* or test pit.



Roman levels? Note the neat trench walls.



What was at the bottom?



Constantine the Great
 AE-2 (22mm, 4.33g),
 London, Britannia (in
 present-day England), c.
 312 AD, RIC VI 153. gVF.

This variety is distinguished from most other Constantine Sol/globus bronzes in two ways: Sol is holding the globus in his right, not left, hand (he holds a whip in his left hand), and the reverse legend leaves out the letters "SOLL." Interestingly, Helios, who was the Greek version of Sol, was often depicted on Greek coins holding a whip. In the mythology, Helios/Sol crossed the sky from east to west each day on his chariot, holding a whip.

A great find – though not quite as good as our Roman road – an early 4th Century bronze coin of Constantine the Great.

Constantine was acclaimed Emperor by the Roman Army at York (Eboracum) in AD 306. Although most of his life he was a pagan, he stopped the persecution of Christians and legalised the religion, eventually converting to Christianity on his deathbed.

Constantine was born in Serbia and his mother, Helena, later canonised as Saint Helen, was Greek, illustrating how multi-cultural the Roman world was.

If you find anything in your garden let me know!!

In response to Government advice regarding measures to mitigate against the spread of Coronavirus, Wyre Archaeology has cancelled future meetings until further notice. Digs are also suspended for the time being. News will be circulated to members by e-mail, the website and the newsletter.

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We're always on the lookout for new projects so if you have a view about potential sites – especially if you have a contact – get in touch. Come to our meeting (**when re-instated**) or email: [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

We still have vacancies on our Executive Committee. If you'd like to contribute to planning our activities and steering the society just get in touch.

**We're always happy to have new members, so, if you know of anyone that might be interested, get them to email: [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)**

**WEBSITES WORTH VISITING**

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|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lancashire Archaeological Society          | <a href="https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/">https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/</a>                                                                                                                                                         |
| Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge): | <a href="http://www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/lancspages.html">www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/lancspages.html</a>                                                                                                                                                            |
| Roman Road Research Association:           | <a href="http://www.romanroads.org">www.romanroads.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Wigan Archaeology Society:                 | <a href="http://www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk">www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| University of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Age      | <a href="https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes">https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes</a> ,<br><a href="https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs">https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs</a> ,<br><a href="https://u3asites.org.uk/preston">https://u3asites.org.uk/preston</a> |

**Membership Benefits: Full Membership:** 10 meetings with voting rights, group membership of CBA and CBA(NW), free training, participation in digs, basic kit loan, personal dig insurance, WA Newsletter, Wigan AS and Lancashire Local History Federation newsletters, Lancaster Uni's Centre for Regional Studies circulars. (*£12 individuals, £18 two family members at same address, full-time students up to age 21 free*). **Associate Members:** participation in digs, basic dig training, loan of kit, dig insurance, newsletter and circulars as above (*£5*).

**If YOU have any articles, news or views, send them to the NEW gmail address at the end of this newsletter. Check us out on Facebook too!**

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| <p><b>WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS &amp; COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Chair                    Brian Rigby<br/> Vice Chair             Davinia Jackson<br/> Immediate Past Chair   Chris Clayton<br/> Treasurer              Simon Millward-Hopkins<br/> Secretary              Dave Hampson<br/> Committee Members   Mike Edwards, Dave Berry, 2 vacancies.</p> | <p><b>CONTACTS</b></p> <p><b>WEB</b>                <a href="http://www.wyrearchaeology.org.uk">www.wyrearchaeology.org.uk</a><br/> <b>EMAIL</b>             <a href="mailto:secwya@gmail.com">secwya@gmail.com</a><br/> <b>Facebook</b>        <a href="https://en-gb.facebook.com/Wyre-Archaeology-">https://en-gb.facebook.com/Wyre-Archaeology-</a></p> |
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**Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.**