



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

This is the last newsletter of 2020 and there'll be no mention of the 'current unpleasantness' other than to express the hope that next year will be happier and that all our members, their relations and friends will stay safe and healthy.

We also hope that 2021 will be, archaeologically speaking, more productive for us and indications are that that could be the case. Some possibilities are set out below. Before that, however, a look back shows that the past 12 months haven't been a total write-off.

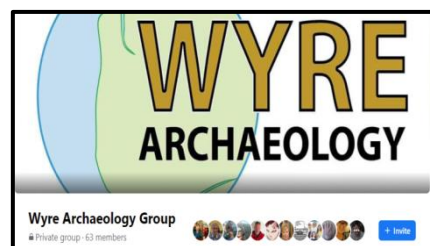
March 2020: Took part in Lancashire Archives' 80th Anniversary Open Day and showed off our new 'Digging Here' banner.



June 2020: Andy's and Simon's socially-distanced exploratory dig at Cabus.



September 2020: New Wyre Archaeology website launched and we run a full scale but COVID-secure dig at Cabus.



October 2020: BBC Radio Lancashire contacted us for an interview about Kirkham's Roman fort. Frank, our aerial photographer, whose garden (pictured being redesigned by our team) overlies part of the fort, was the expert.



November/December 2020: Planned return to Cabus hit by rain and restrictions.

We've also acquired a few new members this year despite not being able to offer participation in digs, with total membership now at 55. Strangely however, membership of our 'private' Facebook Group exceeds this, currently at 70!

Neither should we ignore the fantastic excavations by Oxford Archaeology North on the Windy Harbour – Skipool A 585 Road Improvement Scheme that have uncovered archaeology dating back to the Mesolithic period. Hopefully members managed to see Fraser Brown’s excellent on-line talk via MS Teams. A recording is still available and can be accessed using the link emailed to members last month, or you could cut/copy and paste this address into your browser:

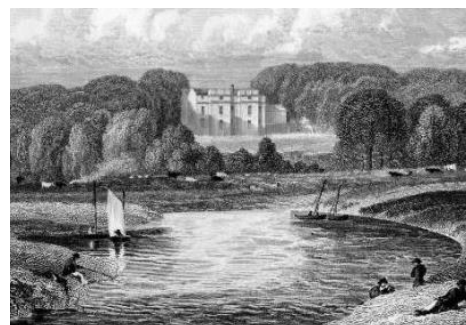
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Looking forward to 2021 Hopefully next year will be better all round, not just for archaeology, but focusing on that topic what can we look forward to?

1 **Brock Bottom Cottages:** Started November 2019 but interrupted by weather and COVID, this is a long-term project to investigate a probable 16th/17th C cottage by the River Brock. See below for the challenge!

2 **Cabus Roman Road:** We made a good start last September on this section of the Walton-le-Dale to Lancaster road but again poor weather caused a break. The farmer was happy to have us back even this month but the site is a little exposed and would be very unpleasant in cold, wind and rain. We hope the farmer will be equally as accommodating next season.

3 **Tulketh Hall:** ‘Friends of Tulketh Hall’ have invited us to join in an investigation of what lies under the grounds of the STAR Youth Centre in Tulketh, Preston. The site was formerly on the banks of the River Ribble before the building of Preston Docks and was occupied by a country house, a medieval hall, a monastery and (maybe) a Roman watchtower or landing stage. *(Right: Part of drawing by J P Neale 1825)*



4 **Wardleys Quay:** A proposal to investigate the possible Georgian (or earlier) stone quay at Wardleys Creek.

5 **Another Roman Road:** Currently not for publication, but Andy has been out prospecting again and, with the help of David Ratledge’s LiDAR images and maps, has possibly located a section of Roman road leading east from Lancaster. Not our usual patch but we have in the past ventured north as far as a Slyne.

How Archaeology Happens: How do things – buildings, artefacts etc – end up being ‘archaeology’? You can Google an answer to this and get the explanations about erosion, soil deposition and flooding events. Charles Darwin’s last book, published in 1881, gave a lot of credit to the action of earthworms, estimating that they can bring to the surface between 17 and 40 tonnes per hectare per year and that worm action can bury items to a depth of up to 2 metres. He also estimated that topsoil deposition was in the range of 2.0mm to 5.6mm per year.



These photos show our site at Brock Bottom Cottage returning to archaeology. From left to right: a) 3 November 2019 before excavation; b) and c) November 2019 during the dig; d) 1 December 2020, photo taken at same spot as (a). What a difference a year makes!

Winter Newsletters

If you would like to share any archaeological experiences you have enjoyed over the last few years we'd be pleased to receive them.

A few photos with a brief description, location and significance whether archaeological or personal would be ideal.

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.

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

Prospective new members are especially welcome just email: secwya@gmail.com

Just a reminder that all members should have received an individual username and password to allow access to the Members' Area on our website www.wyresearchology.org.uk. Over time we'll put our dig reports and other reference documents that are restricted to members. If you haven't received your password or are having difficulty accessing the area, please email secwya@gmail.com.

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING Lancashire Archaeological Society Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge): Wigan Archaeology Society: University of the 3 rd Age	https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/ www.twithr.co.uk www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes , https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs , https://u3asites.org.uk/preston	
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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). **ALL CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP ONLY £5 THIS YEAR**

If YOU have any articles, news or views, email to secwya@gmail.com. Check out Wyre Archaeology Group on Facebook too!

WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE Chair Brian Rigby Vice Chair Davinia Jackson Immediate Past Chair Chris Clayton Treasurer Simon Millward-Hopkins Secretary Dave Hampson Committee Members Mike Edwards, Dave Berry, Peter Scott.	CONTACTS WEB www.wyresearchology.org.uk EMAIL secwya@gmail.com Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657
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Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.