



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.

The new 'rule of 30' means we can get back to digging in a larger team, although we'll need to continue with COVID precautions. Unfortunately society meetings are still not possible until later in the year unless we find a marquee to have the in the open air! Having said that, it would be great if we could get 30 members to a meeting, 10 to 15 being the typical turn out. Looking back in records of past meetings of the 90s, it appears that 7 -10 was the average level of attendance so maybe we don't do too badly. The Executive Committee will meet shortly to put together a plan for this season.

It looks like our main project will be a continuation of the excavation of the ancient cottage at Brock Bottom. The riverside cottage is believed to date back to at least the 18th Century and possibly much earlier. We haven't yet excavated down to floor level so there could be some interesting finds.

The dig would also be a good opportunity for any new members to learn excavation skills – not just trowel work but also surveying and drawing and there's always room for a metal-detectorist. We have a Code of Practice for Excavation and Detecting that members must agree to adhere to in order that we stay on the right side of the Law, especially the Treasure Act 1996.

Members will be invited to join in this project and other, shorter projects that will take place over weekends and some weekdays during the 2021 season.



Lady Hamilton mystery

Member Andy has been out and about in the countryside around Garstang and is wondering if anyone knows the history of Lady Hamilton's Well.

This natural spring is at Barnacre, a little north of Delph Lane and appears to have received its name in the mid-19th C, since on the 1840s 1st Edition OS 1:10,000 map it is simply marked 'Well' but the later 1:2,500 has it as 'Lady Hamilton's Well'.

Although the story goes that it was the spot where Nelson's mistress Emma Hamilton bathed, the lady in question died in 1815 in France and why she should have been around Garstang is unknown.



*Top: The well now overgrown and silted.
Left: Nearby carved masonry.*

We'd be grateful for any light on this mystery.



A brief stay in Northumberland resulted in visits to two archaeological sites which I hadn't seen previously. One is very well-known, the other less so I'd guess, but both are remarkable.

The well-known site was the Roman fort at Corbridge, often referred to as 'Corstopitum' but whose actual name, attested in the famous Vindolanda letters, was 'Coria', apparently a Celtic word meaning 'hosting place'. We were fortunate enough to have the entire site to ourselves and, although the attached museum remained closed, we happened to be there at the same time as one of the expert guides had called in. He was delighted to be able to rehearse his description of the site to the very small audience of 3 of us. What was impressive was the size of the Roman site that comprised not just the fort, the final one of a series on the site but the size of the Roman town of Coria that extended (and still remains) for more than 50 acres in the surrounding fields. Only a small portion of the site has so far been excavated.

The other site new to me was Lordenshaw Hillfort on Garleigh Moor in the Simonside Hills, north of Morpeth. This small multivallate Iron Age fort



forms part of a complex of archaeological features including over 50 Bronze Age cup-marked stones, Iron Age fields, a cairn-ring cemetery, a Romano-British settlement and other post mediaeval and mediaeval features.

The hillfort itself is roughly 74m x 45m surrounded by 3 ramparts and 2 ditches, these being in places 9m wide and 2.5m deep. There are the stone foundations of at least 3 roundhouses in the centre and further, probable houses, set against the southern ramparts. The fort command extensive views across Coquetdale.



The Strongroom lay below the Shrine Room in the fort's Principia building. Soldiers' pay and other valuables would have been stored here.



Top: Cup and ring marked stone.

Left: Roundhouse





Left: Ramparts and ditches.



Right: Roundhouse set against southern rampart

If you have any interesting photos or recollections of sites you've visited, please email them to secwya@gmail.com

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Lancashire Archaeological Society
Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge):
Wigan Archaeology Society:
University of the 3rd 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>



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).

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