

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.

Thank you to the 20 or so members who have signed up to the 'Diggers' Register! This means that those who are organising or co-ordinating digs are able to contact potential diggers without the need to go through the secretary. The only contact information held by the co-ordinators are email addresses.

Already, this system has been put to good use in arranging a few days' dig at Brock Cottage where a small team of intrepid diggers have made great progress. Despite the site's attempts to return to nature, the weed coverage was less serious than at first sight and the team has been able to more or less pick up from where they left off earlier in the year.

Colin, Chris, Dave, Kev and Andy have made more progress, excavating down to probable natural earth below one of the rooms and identifying a possible additional doorway on the southern elevation.



Dave and Andy revealed what appears to be a doorway in the south wall. Tree roots are a major obstacle.

This interesting excavation is a long-term project and the hope is that when completed we'll be able to arrange for an information board to be erected for the benefit of the many members of the public who walk the riverside path.

Bad weather and shortage of time and resources have meant that our other projects at Hornby Farm Forton and Wardleys have been temporarily suspended. It's unlikely that we'll have the opportunity to start these before the end of this season.

Other News

It was sad to learn in the recent LLHF Newsletter of the situation affecting the **Poulton le Fylde Historical & Civic Society** after 30 years of existence.

The Society offered regular lectures, but although the number was reduced to 9 per year, it became too difficult for the small organising team to keep the programme going and it ceased in March 2020. The Society however hasn't been wound



Kev's photo shows NW corner excavated to probable natural sandy earth. Clearly seen in the sections are a number of strata making up the floor.

up and continues to have a website and to be a consultee to Wyre Borough Council but there are concerns for its future.

We can certainly appreciate the challenges involved in having a speaker programme. Fortunately Wyre Archaeology has never focused on that activity, being more concerned with field work but even trying to have the occasional speaker at a meeting is a headache. (Note: if anyone *would* like to be *our* 'Speaker Secretary' just email secwya@gmail.com).

Readers may recall a couple of issues back that we had been approached by residents living on the land known as **Samlesbury Horseshoe** just outside Preston with a view to investigating its possible ancient history. This was in the face of a



planning application by a gravel – extraction company for a 10-year excavation of gravel from the site, that threatened to destroy

not only the environmental aspects of the area but also the peace and quiet since new roads would be needed to accommodate the heavy lorries accessing the site.

A WA team went out to conduct an initial *recce* and reported back very favourably on what promised to be a most exciting project. Unfortunately the residents' representatives appeared to get cold feet about approaching the landowners, Booths Charities Salford for permission to dig. We now hear that the Planning Application has been thrown out by Preston City Council. Of course, the applicants could appeal to central government to overturn the local decision but maybe we'll get another chance.

Christmas Meeting?

Due to insufficient support, we've decided not to go ahead with a meeting and buffet at Christmas but to hold this at the AGM next April.

Executive Committee

We still have two vacancies on the Exec Committee and we would like to have more members involved in planning activities. No experience is necessary and the time commitments is fairly minimal; most communication is via email and texts. If interested please email secwya@gmail.com

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge): www.twithr.co.uk

Roman Roads Research Association: <http://www.romanroads.org>

Lancashire Archaeological Society: <https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com>

Wigan Archaeology Society: www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk

University of the 3rd Age: <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 Council for British Archaeology and CBA(NW) and Lancashire Local History Federation, 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 paid membership in 2021 - £5 per person

WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair	Brian Rigby
Vice Chair	Dave Berry
Immediate Past Chair	Chris Clayton
Treasurer	Simon Millward-Hopkins
Secretary	Dave Hampson
Committee Members	Mike Edwards, Peter Scott, Helen Coulthard.
	Two Vacancies.

CONTACTS

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Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.