

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.

Although we're still in a state of suspended animation, behind the scenes the Executive Committee (see back page for members) is still keeping going and has some hopefully exciting news for members. Also we can report on another example of initiative on the Roman road front.

ROMAN NEWS

Representation to Historic England regarding Burscough Roman Fort (www.fortinthewood.org.uk) and its neighbours' plans to create new tracks received a somewhat ambivalent reply from the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Andrew Davidson. His response stated that Historic England had visited the site, were satisfied that 'no significant harm had been caused to the archaeology of this nationally important site' and that HE was having 'constructive conversations' with the owners on how best to manage this important site. So we can be confident that the new metalled tracks, drainage system and creation of a caravan park will preserve this rare example of Roman military presence in NW England.

Andy has been exploring along the line of the **Roman road from Lancaster to Burrow** and has uncovered a small section of the road, precisely where David Ratledge's LiDAR research predicted. The farmer at this site was so enthusiastic he even used his mechanical digger to strip the topsoil. We're not able to reveal the location of this site but Andy says the farmer could be open to the idea of a planned excavation in the future.

David Ratledge will be giving a free online talk on 16th September at 18.30. For details and booking see www.forestofbowland.com/online-events-learning.

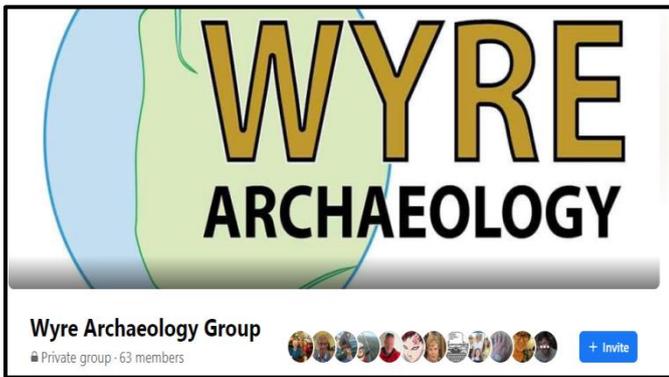


Andy has also been up on the fells NE of Garstang where he has located, or possibly re-located, what could be St Elyn's (or possibly St Ellen's or even St Helen's) Well, described in a 2006 blog on the *Harris & Hughes Fylde & Wyre Antiquarian*. An ancient spring, it appears to be stone-lined but rather overgrown.

Springs were seen in ancient times as special places with sacred or magical properties and were often where votive offerings of coins, swords and other prized possessions were deposited to earn favours from the gods or spirits. People still throw coins into wishing wells or indeed quite often into any body of water.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Members will be aware that we've launched a new Facebook page. Named **Wyre Archaeology Group** to distinguish it from our *society*, Wyre Archaeology, it's a private member group which means that individuals must request to be able to join and agree to a set of rules. The **WAG** is administered by Peter Scott, Exec Committee member for Social Media and currently has over 60 members. Only about 20 of these are 'paying members' of Wyre Archaeology, the total membership of which now is 46, including Associates and Honorary Members. Obviously we'd like all our members to sign up to **WAG**, although direct email and this newsletter will remain the principal means of communicating with members.



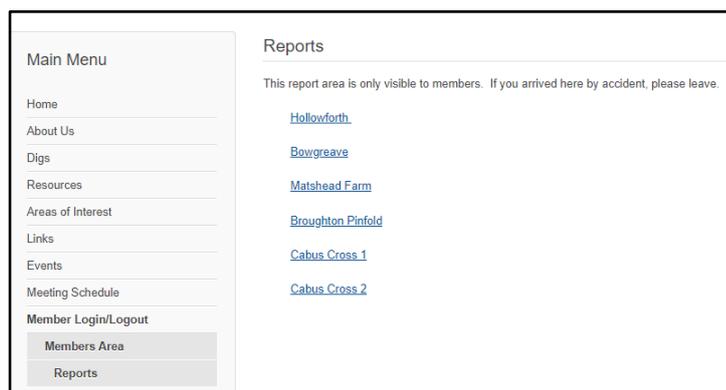
To sign up, you do need a facebook account with your email address but you can use a **pseudonym** if you don't wish to reveal your identity and/or gender. The **WAG** facebook page offers a means of informal discussion between members on archaeological matters.

We are also looking at the idea of having a virtual meeting using ZOOM or similar medium. This may be used to 'broadcast' an online talk by Oxford Archaeology North about the exciting investigation along the line of the A585 Windy Harbour–Skipton Improvement Scheme.

We'll keep members informed about this development as it progresses.

WEBSITE & DIG REPORTS

In earlier times, Wyre Archaeology excavation reports were written and compiled in book form by Brian Hughes. The report books, along with Brian's and Michelle's (Harris) other publications were printed, published and sold online and by outlets such as Fleetwood Museum, the profits generally going into society funds. Over the past few years we've tended not to compile formal dig reports, relying more on sharing information in a more unstructured way such as updates at meetings and items on the website and in this newsletter.



We are now proposing to move to publishing more formal but non-technical dig reports in PDF format on the WA website but restricted to registered members of the society (i.e. recipients of this newsletter). Under this proposal



The site photographed from almost from the same point. Left: 23 Sept 2016. Right: 20 August 2020

members will be given a password that will enable them to access a 'members area' of the website (*above*).

Dig reports will be posted in this area and remain restricted to members for a period of 6-12 months, after which they will become open-access probably via links on facebook. If you have any questions or concerns about this development please get in touch.

One report, already on the website, describes our 2016 Big Dig of the Roman road at Bowgreave, an extract from which is pictured here.

CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE: RESULT OF MEMBER BALLOT

Members were asked to vote on the proposal to move our meeting venue to Great Eccleston Centre. A total of 33 members responded of whom 27 were in favour of the proposal and 6 were against. 5 Members did not vote. Only the votes of Full and Student Members were counted.*

The proposal is therefore approved by members.

Subject to satisfactory agreement with the GE Centre Manager, this move will take place from our next meeting, date to be announced.

* Membership currently consists of 38 Full Members and Student Members plus 8 Honorary or Associate Members. 3 former members and 6 parents and young members (under 16) have not renewed this year.

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

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Lancashire Archaeological Society

<https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>

Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge):

www.twithr.co.uk



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 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

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