

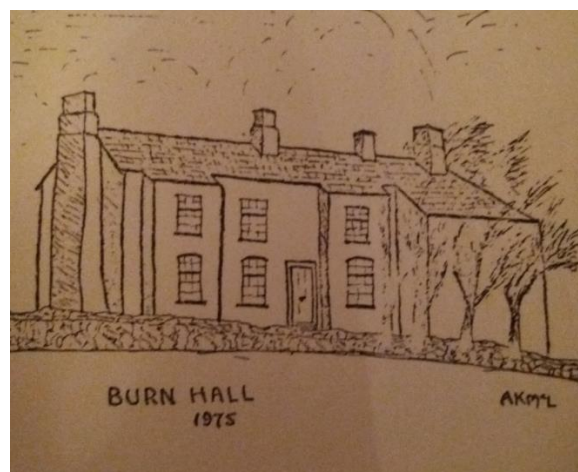


**Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll publish or try to answer.**

***I'm sure that members are looking forward to a great digging season – just as soon as we are allowed out again. I suspect that any digs will still have to be carried out under COVID-secure conditions but we did manage that successfully last September so there's no reason to doubt we can repeat that. At least one member was able to carry on prospecting solo before the current stringent conditions came into force. His dig is described below.***

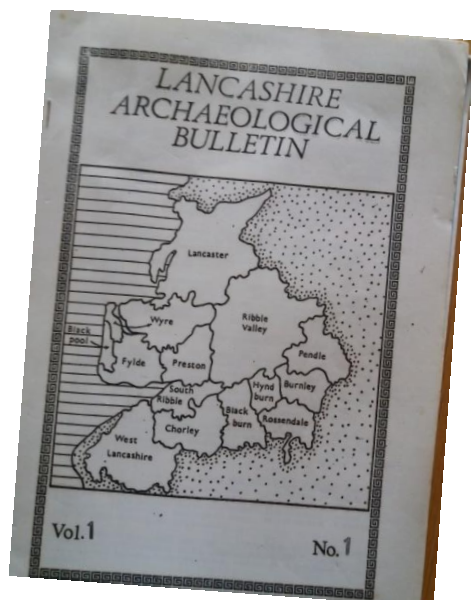
***Also included in this issue is an article lifted from Volume 1/Issue 2 of the Lancashire Archaeological Bulletin of May 1975. Remember if you have any archaeological reminiscences you'd be willing to share please send them in.***

Issue 28, last February, introduced readers to the Lancashire Archaeological Bulletin. This was the creation of Ben Edwards, Lancashire's first County Archaeologist and his wife Margaret, who was its Editor in Chief. For 12 years from March 1975 this magazine, published and sold privately in 6 issues per year, collated reports and articles of archaeological interest from all over the geographical and historical County of Lancashire and, occasionally, further afield. Margaret Edwards (an Honorary Life Member of Wyre Archaeology) has generously granted permission for us to re-publish occasional items.



In Vol1/Issue2, May 1975, A. K. McLerie contributed an account describing Burn Hall, 'Thornton, near Blackpool' (*sic*). Better known to longer-standing WA members, especially Bourne Hill Dig Veterans, as Bourne Hall, the now long-demolished hall possibly lay over the site of an Iron-Age settlement.

McLerie wrote: *'Burn Hall, for all its desolation, is a venerable pile. Standing on what must be a drumlin of the last ice age, amid the extensive Thornton Marsh, it was the home of a branch of the Westby family for two hundred years...For many years it was merely a farmhouse; now it is empty, protected by its scheduled status.*



*'The site is very ancient. There must have been habitation there very early indeed. Domesday lists it (Brune) as a vill of two carucates, and, strangely, it has always attracted to itself associations with antiquity.*

*'Apart from the usual subterranean passage, (this time to Rossall Hall, two miles away) the Roman road from Kirkham to the Haven of the Setantii was supposed to have passed its door. It has been identified with the Brunanburh fight of 937 A.D., when Aethelstan, king of Wessex and England, whipped Anlaf and his invaders back to Dublin. The slight eminence across the road has been avowed to be a tumulus; and human bones by the cartload have been reported at various times as emerging from the site. More credible than these is the private chapel ...*

*'Many attempts have been made by local Historical Societies, alas without success, to view the interior, and the reputed ceiling of vine leaves and grape clusters, if indeed it still exists.*

*'Burn Hall is dying, but it must have been a very pleasant place indeed, that June day in 1714, when Thomas Tyldesley of Foxhall went '...with Jack Westby to Burn for dinner – stayed till 4...'.'*

\*\*\*

Wyre Archaeology began excavations on Bourne Hill in 2005 and backfilled the final trench in 2014. We never were able to have access to the site of Bourne Hall.

---

## 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.**

---

### **Andy's goes solo (again)!**

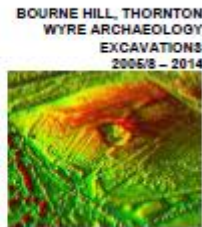
In August, last year, following his (and Simon's) success in finding evidence of the Roman road at Cabus (reported in Issue 35), member Andy went out solo prospecting for Roman roads, armed again with ideas gleaned from David Ratledge's Roman roads website, [www.twithr.co.uk](http://www.twithr.co.uk). This time Andy was looking for physical evidence of a road linking the Roman fort at Lancaster with that at Burrow-in-Lonsdale. The exact location must remain secret at the landowner's request, but it lies near The Ridge to the East of the M6.

Andy was successful in locating the road in two trenches some 30m apart. Despite it having suffered much plough damage, the foundation layer stones had survived and the width of the road had been at least 6m although this is an approximation. We hope that Andy will be able to negotiate with the farmer for a WA dig in the future. The road is classified as Margary 705 and the LiDAR image may be viewed on David's website.





Images show (top 3 left to right): Andy's first dig – farmer assisting in removing turf in true Time Team style; Fist trench.  
 (bottom 2): Andy's second dig – about 30m east. Foundation stones viewed from different ends of trench, trowel indicates NE direction.



Latest report added to website: Bourne Hill Excavations. The report gives a non-technical illustrated account of Wyre Archaeology's investigation of a suspected Iron Age settlement on Bourne Hill, Thornton.

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](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

Prospective new members are especially welcome just email: [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

**WEBSITES WORTH VISITING**

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

<https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
[www.twithr.co.uk](http://www.twithr.co.uk)  
[www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk](http://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). **ALL CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP ONLY £5 THIS YEAR**

If YOU have any articles, news or views, email to [secwya@gmail.com](mailto: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.wyresearchaeology.org.uk](http://www.wyresearchaeology.org.uk)  
**EMAIL** [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)  
**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657)

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