

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.

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. We've had the AGM which was well-attended and pleasingly we've been very busy in the field with the regular Brock dig plus involvement in two new community projects. More details follow.

Brock Report

Kev has provided this excellent report (slightly edited) on last week's dig also attended by regulars Colin and Chris B.

Colin initially busied himself with the outer face of the north wall down to foundation stone level. After reaching the halfway point he then started on the party wall entrance way clearing the soil down to flagstone level.



Meanwhile, Chris beavered away on what we believe may be a

cobbled yard (below), revealing an eastern edge of flag stones. It looks like we need to progress this area further eastwards towards the river.



For my part, I worked on the internal east-west wall in the southern (part of the) structure, where it abuts the north-south internal wall. I managed to get down to

cobbled floor level, which ties in with the other exposed cobbled floor levels. Whilst in this trench, I uncovered an earthenware pot (circled) that was set on the cobbles.



The pot appears to have already been broken with about 1/3 of the edge missing. The pot also appears to have been broken further by one of the fallen stones from the wall. I have cleaned the shards up to reveal quite an attractive pot with what appears to be a maker's mark on the base and a number on the side.

Kev also reported that a visitor to the site turned out to be a bit of a pottery expert and she has offered to help identify ceramic finds.



Kirkham Community Project

Last November we met with Mike Glover whose company, Positive Placemakers CIC had been contracted by Fylde Borough Council to work on some of the projects associated with the High Street Heritage Action Zone funding that they have received from Historic England for Kirkham.



Clockwise from top: Mike Glover (left) with diggers and Roman stonework, Nero coin, WA Members Frank(left) and Ryan by the very neat trench.

As an extension to this work, Mike, an amateur archaeologist proposed to include some community-based archaeological investigation of the vicus are adjacent to the Roman fort. Some preparatory work indicated that opening test pits in the gardens overlying possible vicus remains could be worthwhile and the first of these, involving WA members and local community members was excavated in a Dowbridge back garden between 25th and 29th April. Mike had previously dug here recovering a small piece of Samian pottery and revealing rough stonework. In this dig the trench was extended revealing further stone work and a Roman coin of the Emperor Nero whose reign was from AD37 to AD68. The Roman occupation of the Kirkham area dates roughly from the start of the 70's.

Hurst Grange Park

As reported in April's Issue 53, plans were in hand for a community-based dig at Hurst Grange Park, Penwortham with the aim of tracing the footprint of a Victorian mansion demolished in the 1930s. Wigan AS had conducted a geophys survey that provided some target areas for trenches and the first of these was opened on Friday 6th May.



Over the 3 days to Sunday, members of the Friends of Hurst Grange Park, the local community and of Wyre Archaeology were able to excavate and trace almost the complete outline of the building.

Under the turf what remained were the foundations of the building and, as with many archaeological digs, these raised as many questions as they answered. The interpretation of brickwork, stonework and drains didn't completely reconcile with the geophys plot, old OS maps or photographs, but Peter Gilroy of FoGHP and Greg Clark, Senior Parks Technical Officer of South Ribble Borough Council (above, consulting a plan of the building) were pleased with the end result.



The active participation of the local community and especially of its

younger members children also contributed to the success of the project.



WA Chairperson Dave Berry shows WA digger Kev and a local volunteer what's in his bucket.

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Wyre Archaeology: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657>

Friends of Hurst Grange Park: www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/The-Friends-of-Hurst-Grange-Park-127722403929150

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:** newsletter and circulars as above (*£5*).

Subscriptions rates will be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting.

WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

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

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Facebook	www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657

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