

LANCASTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

I must be getting really old as it doesn't seem five minutes since we were all meeting for the AGM, but the summer is already passing quickly and we can now look forward to an exciting programme of lectures to carry us through the dark days of winter. Our first lecture will take place as usual, on the last Thursday of the month, on 28th September, when our member, Tim Churchill, will be telling us about the White Lund explosion, in its centenary year. Mike Winstanley has again organised a good and varied programme, with a splendid mix of archaeological and historical topics. The other lectures concern historic bog bursts, by Bill Shannon, on 26th October, and the survey and excavation on three farmsteads high up in the Duddon Valley, by Jamie Quartermaine, on 30th November. It will then be 2018! In January, February and March, we will welcome Andrew White to talk about the first railway in Lancaster (on the 25th), my colleague, Helen Evans, to talk on the Neolithic of Morecambe Bay, the subject of her PhD (on 22nd February), and Colin Penny, a long-standing guide at Lancaster Castle, to talk on convict transportation to Australia. Please note that there is a very significant change of date for this last lecture, as our normal date coincides with the start of Easter, so we are moving this lecture forward by a week to 22nd March. We will then be to our AGM again, when we have invited Peter Iles, the archaeological advisor to Lancashire County Council, to talk about the potential archaeological sites that may be affected by the proposed Bailrigg 'garden village' and the issues surrounding them, on 26th April.

I hope that you have enjoyed the excursions that have already taken place this summer. Another is planned: on 10th September, we will be visiting the Skipton area, including a visit to the castle there, one of many that was renovated by lady Anne Clifford in the seventeenth century. Many thanks to Michael Haslam, who has organised these.

Many thanks for your support of the Society, and if you enjoy the lectures and excursions, let us know. Similarly, if there are places you want to visit, or think members would enjoy, or lecture topics or lecturers you would like to hear, do let us know, and also encourage others to join us in the Society. As ever, my thanks go out to the Committee for all their hard work over the last year – and remember, if you'd like to get more involved with the Society, there is still space on the committee! We really are a friendly group and don't bite; it's not an onerous job, and new blood is always stimulating and vital for the continued health of the Society!

Rachel Newman