

LANCASTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016

It was good to see so many members at the AGM at the end of April – I can't believe that is already two months in the past! As you know, that was the last formal lecture meeting of the 2015/16 session, the winter apparently being very well received, given the consistent numbers of members attending. We have now finalised the lecture programme for 2016/17, which I hope you will find as stimulating. It certainly looks to be up to our standards in providing variety and high-quality speakers: thanks to Mike Winstanley for organising the speakers.

As soon as the AGM was over, we embarked on the first trip of the summer season, on 30th April, to the 'pot' churches designed by Edmund Sharpe, in Manchester, Bolton, and here in Scotforth. This has been judged a successful and enjoyable expedition, and we also managed to give a significant donation to the St Paul's roofing fund. Many thanks to Michael Haslam, who organised this, despite a really heavy educational schedule.

As you will remember, at the AGM we were uncertain of the details of any half-day summer meeting. I'm really pleased to draw your attention to information accompanying this mailing, to let you know that, thanks to the good offices of Mike Winstanley, a meeting has been arranged for the afternoon of 30th July, to be guided around Wray. This should be a real treat, allowing us to explore some of its hidden corners. For those of you who don't have transport, please do not be deterred from attending, as we are only too happy to try to arrange lifts if we know you are in need!

The Autumn meeting will take place on 3rd September, and will be to Chesters Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall, where we will be guided by Graeme Stobbs. I've known Graeme for many years, having worked with him on two Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimages, and I have no doubt that we will have a fascinating and learned tour around the site. In the afternoon, it is planned that we should proceed to Carlisle, where there are many treats – both archaeological and retail-related!

Before we know it, the summer will be over, and it will be time for our first lecture of the winter season. This will take place as usual, on the last Thursday of the month, in this case 29th September. I'm sorry to say that I will be absent from this, as I'll be in Berlin (bad timing on my part!), but I look forward to seeing many of you at the October meeting. Do remember that we have moved the start of the meeting a little later, to accommodate the Brownies, who have the hall booked until 7.15 – so if you don't want to find yourself a Brown Owl, please do not turn up until after their time is up.

Many thanks to George Howson, and the rest of the Committee, for all the hard work over the last years. I hope that the next three will be as enjoyable and interesting!

Rachel Newman