

LANCASTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 28 April 2011 at the St Paul's Hala Centre at the usual time, 7:30 pm. Formal notice of the meeting, including an appeal for new committee members, appears on the back of this newsletter. After the business part of the meeting, Professor David Shotter will give a talk about *Lancaster's Roman Bathhouses*.

We have received some good news about the Local History Collection at Lancaster Central Library. I know that several members have been concerned about the disappearance of various records and journals from the library during the recent refurbishment. After protracted enquiries, it now appears that the records that have been removed have all been transferred to Lancashire Record Office at Preston, where they can be held more securely and catalogued. Those local history journals that have been removed from Lancaster are being held in store and will be brought back to Lancaster Library in due course.

The society is a member of the Council for British Archaeology, North-West. As a consequence, we receive their six-monthly newsletter *News NW* and copies of the popular *British Archaeology*, which comes out every two months. Anyone wishing to see a copy of *News NW* should ask me. Copies of *British Archaeology* are put on display at our meetings and can be borrowed by members. The latest issue contains an article about the Roman helmet found at Crosby Garrett in Cumbria and the controversy surrounding its subsequent fate.

As you will have noticed, many of our speakers now use PowerPoint in their presentations. We do not have a digital projector, and have to rely on speakers bringing their own or on borrowing. We are hoping to obtain a grant towards the cost of our own projector and ancillary equipment. To make an application to the 'Awards for All' scheme, we require a volunteer to work on drafting the application. Guidance will be available from members of the committee. Also, practical assistance has been offered from people in similar societies, who have recently made successful applications. If you think you might be able to help, please contact me.

We are planning three excursions as usual this year. The first is an exceptional opportunity to get an insider's view of the Roman fort at Vindolanda and military museum at Carvoran on 7 May. An application form is enclosed. Although the last date for booking is 9 April, it is likely that the coach will be fully booked by then: so book early to avoid disappointment! We are also planning a half day visit to Lytham Hall on 10 July and a full-day excursion to Little Moreton Hall and the Anderton Boat lift on 3 September.

The programme for 2011/12 is now being finalised. Among the highlights that have already been confirmed, we can look forward to hearing Admiral Sir John Kerr talk about *Nelson and HMS Victory* and Dr Andrew White talk about *Lancaster Inns*.

Our next meeting takes place at 7:30 pm on Thursday 24 February, when Peter Robinson will speak about the *Lancaster and Carlisle Railway*. The following meeting is on 31 March, when Alastair Vannan will talk about *Iron Age and Romano-British Rural Settlement in Lancashire*.

I look forward to seeing you at these meetings – and at our AGM in April, when I hope you will consider offering to help keep the wheels of the society turning.

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