

## News from the Mellor Heritage Project

Well, we do suddenly have a lot to tell you about! Let's move quickly to the local matters and a note from John Hearle on the subject of Volunteers Wanted for various events and activities:

### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

#### **FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY**

##### **Oldknow's Mellor Mill and surroundings: Saturday & Sunday, July 18-19, 2009.**

This is one of four entries from Greater Manchester for the Festival. Two others on July 23 and August 1 are activities at The Old Vicarage / Parish Centre arranged by Marie Widger. Three out of four is a good show by the Mellor Archaeological Trust and we need to make sure that it is well done!

If you can help in either of the following ways, please let Ann Hearle know: [annhearle@hearle.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:annhearle@hearle.eclipse.co.uk) or 0161 427 1149.

##### **Help on Wednesday July 15 – and possibly 16/17<sup>th</sup>**

In order to make the site accessible and informative to visitors, we need to mark an outline of the mill, show the locations of the excavations last March, and carry out some clearing and route marking. Please come and join a working party, if you can manage it.

##### **Guides on Saturday July 18 and Sunday July 19**

We need guides to lead tours, limited to 10 people, which will be at 15 minute intervals. We will take guides on a tour of the route and give out briefing notes and on Thursday July 16. Meet at Roman Lakes car park at 7-00 pm. Please let us know if you would like to be a guide.

### **CHECKING MELLOR WALKS**

Following much hard work by Chris Walters and his small team, we now have a draft for a booklet of 12 heritage walks. This is shortly going to the printer, but we can make small changes when the proofs come at the end of July. It would be helpful for the routes to be walked in order to see if there are any problems in following the directions. If you are willing to do one or two walks, please contact John Hearle, [johnhearle@hearle.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:johnhearle@hearle.eclipse.co.uk), 0161 427 1149.

The following is a list of walks, which will help you to suggest which routes you would prefer. The longer walks can be split into sections and walked by different people.

1	Mellor landscapes [church to Shiloh road]	4 ½ km
2	Mill Brow, wealth of water power.	6 km
3	Around the northwest. [Bottoms Hall to Etherow]	9 ½ km
4	Three Brookbottoms figure of 8.	12 km
5	A prehistoric perambulation. [Cobden edge to Chisworth]	13 ½ km
6	Samuel Oldknow. [Marple to Roman Bridge]	6 km
7	John Wesley, Methodists and Independents [Devil's Elbow to Paradise]	11 ½ km
8	An approach from New Mills.	3 ½ km
9	The deep south.	4 km
10	A northern amble.	5 ¾ km
11	The inner circle.	9 km
12	Round the boundary.	25 km

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Next, we have Philip Day on the Photo Archive:

"We (Anthony Boardman and myself) have been working on an archive of photographs relating to Mellor Archaeology. It is now at the stage where people can look at what we've done, and hopefully contribute information and/or photographs. The web page to start at is:

[http://www.timeslip-mellor.org.uk/geophysics/pp1\\_4\\_photographs.html](http://www.timeslip-mellor.org.uk/geophysics/pp1_4_photographs.html)

I would be most grateful if you would circulate this information to anyone who may be interested (i.e. all Trust members, volunteers, etc.)."

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Now we come to the events further afield. The first is from a good friend of the Mellor Heritage Project, Maria Blagojevic, Secretary of the St. Asaph Archaeology Society. She has been on our mailing list for a long time now and always passes on our News to her members too. She is doing her bit in spreading the word – thank you Maria! Anyway, a couple of weeks ago she also advised me of what St. Asaph are doing around the Festival of Archaeology, mentioned by John Hearle above. Maria writes:

"As part of the Festival of Archaeology, St Asaph Archaeology Society is putting on two Open Days as stated below.

A cordial invitation is extended to you and any Members of your Organisation who would like to come and visit us at the Open Days.

**Tuesday 21 July 2009**, Open Day at St Asaph Cricket Club, off The Roe, St. Asaph, where we will have a flint knapper, displays (including our recent donation of bones from Fox's Cave, Nr Henllan) together with the Portable Antiquities Scheme where local finds can be brought to be identified. The Open Day will run from 4.00pm till 8.00pm.

**Sunday 26 July 2009**, Open Day at Tan y Llan, Ysceifiog, where the Society has been undertaking a 'dig' of a 16th century farmstead. Parking will be in the village of Ysceifiog and arrangements can be made to transfer those people with any walking difficulties. The Open Day will run from 11.00am till 3.00pm. There will be a number of displays including a flint knapper, an expert on Buckley Pottery and you can bring pieces along to be identified.

There will also be light refreshments available. If you are able to let me know who will be attending, for catering purposes, I would be very grateful.

Please also share this e mail with any other individuals or organisations who you think might be interested.

We look forward to welcoming you all. Please contact me if you require any further information on 07767705100 or e mail at [maria@stasapharchaeologysociety.org.uk](mailto:maria@stasapharchaeologysociety.org.uk). Further information on events being held during the Festival of Archaeology can be found at: [www.festivalofbritisharchaeology.org.uk](http://www.festivalofbritisharchaeology.org.uk)

Maria, Secretary, St Asaph Archaeology Society, [www.stasapharchaeologysociety.org.uk](http://www.stasapharchaeologysociety.org.uk)

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Finally, at this stage just a date (and information!) for your diary. Thanks again from me to Maria for the detailed email – this is an event many of us have attended in the past couple of years and we knew it was on again this year. I had simply not seen any detail before Maria's email. It came to her in an email from Heather Hidden, in which she writes: "We have another seminar day in October - same venue. details as attached- the theme is Romans and Countrymen, and Toby Driver will be one of the speakers. Do hope some or indeed all of your group will come. Tickets are £8.50 and are selling well and I haven't sent the leaflets out yet." What's the event? No prizes for guessing, but the details Heather attached are overleaf.

However, I think you've heard quite enough from me for now and I'll sign off, hoping you can get involved in some way soon in all that is going on in this fabulous Project of ours and the activities surrounding it.

See you soon!

Best Regards,

*Chris Wattens*

**Old Oswestry Landscape and Archaeology Project  
Third Annual Seminar**

**"Romans and Countrymen"  
*Rome meets the Iron Age in the Northern Marches.***

**24th October 2009 10.30 am to 4.00 pm.**

The Marches School and Technology College  
Morda Rd.,  
Oswestry SY112AR  
(On the B5069 south of central Oswestry, Parking Available)

**We are very happy to present our third seminar which will focus on the later Iron Age period and the coming of the Romans to the Northern Marches and North Wales. Our previous events have been oversubscribed and this year tickets will be limited to 250 so early application is advisable.**

### **Programme**

- 10.30-10.45am** Arrival, Tea/Coffee and Welcome  
**10.45-11.30am** Roger White: *'A Clash of Cultures: the Romans in Shropshire'*  
**11.30 – 12.15am** Peter Reavil: *'Drawing lines in the sand - Continuity and Change in the Marches during the Iron Age and Roman periods will investigate ideas of identity and cultural belonging through the material culture (artefacts) of the period 400 BC - 300ish AD. This talk will use material from Shropshire County Museum Service as well as artefacts found by the public and recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme'*  
**12.15-1.15 pm** Lunch plus displays and/or videos  
**1.15 -2.00pm** Margaret Worthington: *'A Welcome in the Hillsides? Llanymynech Hill and Rhyn Park'*  
**2.00-2.45pm** Toby Driver: *'Hunting for the invaders: rediscovering Roman remains in north Wales from the air'*  
**2.45-3.05pm** Tea/Coffee  
**3.05-3.50** Shelagh Lewis: *'Fit for the Gods – Temples and Worship in Roman Britain'*  
**3.50-4.00** Final Discussion

**About our contributors:**

**Dr Toby Driver, Aerial Investigator, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales Shelagh Lewis CBA West Midlands:**

**Peter Reavil Finds Liaison Officer for Shropshire and Herefordshire Portable Antiquities Scheme**

**Shelagh Lewis CBA West Midlands:**

**Dr Roger White of Birmingham Archaeology and his many interests include the Wroxeter Hinterland Project and the transition from the Iron Age into the Roman period**

**Margaret Worthington Porthywaen Study Centre**

**Displays include the "Romans in Wales" display from Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust and an update from the Old Oswestry landscape and Archaeological Project. Castle Books will also bring their stall.**

**Tickets £8.50 include morning and afternoon tea/coffee and biscuits plus a sandwich lunch. Vegetarian options will be available.**

**For further details contact Heather Hidden, email [heather.hidden@btinternet.com](mailto:heather.hidden@btinternet.com), Tel 01691 662602**

If you would like to attend the seminar please complete the accompanying booking form and send it to the address below, together with payment.

### Booking Form

#### "Romans and Countrymen" Saturday 24th October 2009

I would like to attend the seminar.

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Tel. No. .... Email .....

I would like to purchase tickets at £8.50 each

I enclose a cheque for.....

I would like to receive further information about other activities

Please complete the form and send it with cheque made payable to 'OBHAG Project' to  
Heather Hidden  
Old Oswestry Landscape and Archaeology Project  
Wern Weston Cottage  
Weston Rhyn  
Oswestry  
SY10 7LJ