

Chester Archaeological Society

Registered Charity No 1068062



Forthcoming Lecture at the Grosvenor Museum

Wednesday 11th March at 7:30pm

Chester, Wirral and the Vikings

Dr Clare Downham Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool

A note to let you know that Dr Clare Downham, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, has very kindly agreed to deliver 'Wirral & the Vikings' on 11th March 2020 in the Grosvenor Museum.

Dr David Griffiths is unable to present his lecture as he was rushed into hospital a few days ago and is unable to visit Chester on this occasion. I am sure everyone wishes him well and a speedy recovery, post operation, and will welcome Clare.

Chester, Wirral and the Vikings

The Wirral Peninsula and Chester were politically and economically significant areas during the Viking Age. This lecture will explore the history of the area from the arrival of the Viking leader Ingimund in 902 until King Aethelstan's victory at the Battle of Brunanburh in 937. While there is relatively little textual evidence which survives from this period, there are Viking Age place-names, archaeology and sculpture in the local area,

Some of which is also featured in the free 'The Viking Age in the North West' smart phone app which is a resource available on both Android and iOS devices. It takes the user on an adventure through Merseyside's hidden Viking Age history; exploring sites and place names that remain in use, providing historical facts and revealing the mythology and folklore associated with the peninsula. Feedback is appreciated via the User Survey.



Fragment of Viking Age sculpture
from Old Swan



Bird scale mount from Meols

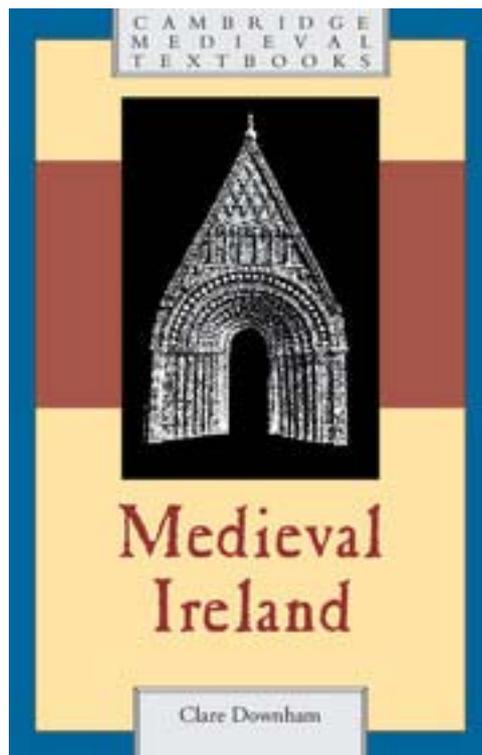


Viking grave goods from Meols



Distribution map of sites from smart Phone app

Clare Downham's book 'Medieval Ireland' offers a fresh and stimulating perspective on culture, politics, religion and the arts during a crucial period in Irish history.



Synopsis:

Medieval Ireland is often described as a backward-looking nation in which change only came about as a result of foreign invasions. By examining the wealth of under-explored evidence available, Downham challenges this popular notion and demonstrates what a culturally rich and diverse place medieval Ireland was. Starting in the fifth century, when St Patrick arrived on the island, and ending in the fifteenth century, with the efforts of the English government to defend the lands which it ruled directly around Dublin by building great ditches, this up-to-date and accessible survey charts the internal changes on the island. Chapters dispute the idea of an archaic society in a wide-range of areas, with a particular focus on land-use, economy, society, religion, politics and culture. This concise and accessible overview offers a fresh perspective on Ireland in the Middle Ages and overthrows many enduring stereotypes.