

President Dr Paul Booth FRHistS

# The Chester Antiquary

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2024 Issue 2 – October

## Fall Back

**A**fter our annual break over the Summer, it is very nice to enter Autumn and to fall back (pardon the pun) into familiar habits. Welcome to the 2024-2025 CAS season!

Since our last newsletter we held our AGM—thank you to all who attended—and hosted our final in-person CAS Lecture of the 2023-2024 season. Here we begin with a brief salute to Paul Everson's excellent discussion of what he called 'Rosemary's Baby' and point you towards a more thorough write up by CAS Publicity Officer, Andie Byrnes.

Equally, we all (I hope) received our copies of the publication of the CAS excavations at Handbridge, which is a milestone for the Society and a real feather in its cap, so we proceed with a short overview of its significance.

During June and July CAS Council members contributed to the Chester Heritage Festival and Chester Festival of Ideas—there is an outline of those contributions and, in one case, you can still watch the contribution online.

Over the Summer months CAS Members were able to participate in several excursions organised by Pauline Clarke, our Excursions Officer, and our Secretary, Clare Dudman, reviews the most recent for us—a tour of Nantwich.

Happily, we were able to award our St John's House Fund this year to a very worthy project, as we confirm below.

Naturally, Peter Carrington, as Journal Editor and as our expert in Advocacy, has been typically busy working on the next edition of our journal, *JCAS*, whose contents are previewed here, and commenting on planning issues, summarised below and available on the CAS website.

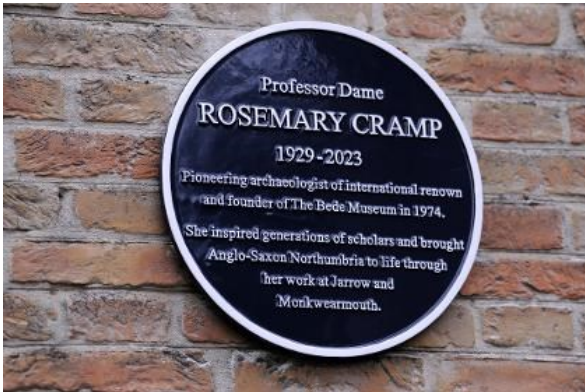
Just a few weeks away is the Society for Roman Studies conference joint organised by Caroline Pudney in Archaeology at the University of Chester and CAS, and for 2024-2025 we have a mouthwatering schedule of CAS Lectures, in-person and online, which got off to a bang in collaboration with History & Archaeology as Helen Gittos spoke to us about 'Christianity before Conversion'.

Beyond CAS itself there is also a huge amount members might be interested in, advertised here. Clare Dudman, Secretary, reminds us that we are also members of Cheshire Local History Association and their History Day is imminent. The Grosvenor Museum has two exhibitions, two upcoming talks, and two one-off seasonal events. The Cathedral hosts Aleta Doran's much-anticipated exhibition and workshops on Trena Cox.

Finally, you might enjoy a new take on cheese-making on Cheshire, free to read online!

*Tom Pickles, Chair*

## Rosemary's Baby



**D**ame Professor Rosemary Cramp was an extraordinary scholar of Anglo-Saxon archaeology. Although Rosemary completed her first degree in English, she was, in parallel, a keen archaeologist, and focused particularly on Old English language and literature, setting her up for a career as an Anglo-Saxon archaeologist.

Rosemary co-founded the Department of Archaeology at the University of Durham, where she was herself Professor of Archaeology and served as Head of Department for some 19 years from 1971-1990. She was responsible for the iconic excavations at the twin monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow (where Bede was a monk), subsequently published in two volumes; she recovered the plans of the Anglo-Saxon settlements, showing how their 'claustral' layout, wall plaster, paint, imitation *opus signinum*, and sculpture was designed to emphasise their Roman connections. Equally, Rosemary was a pioneer in the study of early medieval sculpture and founded the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture as a British Academy and then Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project. It is now almost complete, both in printed volumes and with an online database (<https://corpus.awh.durham.ac.uk/>).

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given this project, she was also first Chair of the Archaeology Data Service, dedicated to curating digital archives. Somehow, she also managed to act as Trustee of the British Museum, President of the Society of Antiquaries London, and Commissioner for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. All this work was recognised with no fewer than six honorary degrees, fellowship of the British Academy, the Soci-

ety of Antiquaries Gold Medal and – most notably of all – a CBE in 1987 and OBE in 2011.

For my own part, Rosemary's qualities as a generous scholar and mentor were revealed at the earliest stage of my career. One of my first articles was on sculptures from three sites on which Rosemary had previously published, at Dewsbury and Otley in West Yorkshire, and Halton in Lancashire. Here there are images of angel veneration, which I argued represented a theology of contemplative preaching set out by Pope Gregory the Great and advertised at the monasteries who produced these monuments. Having had no contact with Rosemary herself other than through reading and admiring her work, I was astonished one morning to receive, out of the blue, a carefully-chosen, handwritten postcard from her, endorsing and encouraging my work. From others I have since discovered that this was typical of the time and thought she took to support even complete strangers, and it meant a huge amount; I keep it as a reminder of how to behave.

Sadly, Rosemary passed away in April 2023. However, it has been comforting to see that she has been commemorated with a blue plaque by South Tyne-side Council.



To end our CAS Lectures for 2023-4 it seemed fitting to ask someone to speak on Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture and the obvious choice was Paul Everson. Together with David Stocker, Paul has worked for the Corpus project for decades, producing volumes on Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, and the final volume for the eastern counties. Amongst varied

careers, David and Paul both worked for English Heritage and brought to their study of sculpture an expertise in landscape history and archaeology.

What typifies their work is a desire to understand the landscape contexts of stone sculpture and the connections between sites and stones. A lot of original contributions could be picked out, but a highlight is their analysis of where stone for monuments came from, how it was worked, and for whom distinctive types of monuments were produced, from the identification of episcopal workshops serving the first patrons of parish churches to the observation of concentrations of monuments reflecting Scandinavian merchants. CAS Members may be familiar with their inspiring paper suggesting that the concentration of distinctive circle-headed monuments at St John's Church, Chester and across the Wirral, produced from the Redcliff quarry, resulted from a workshop serving Scandinavian merchants operating via a strand on the Dee below St John's.

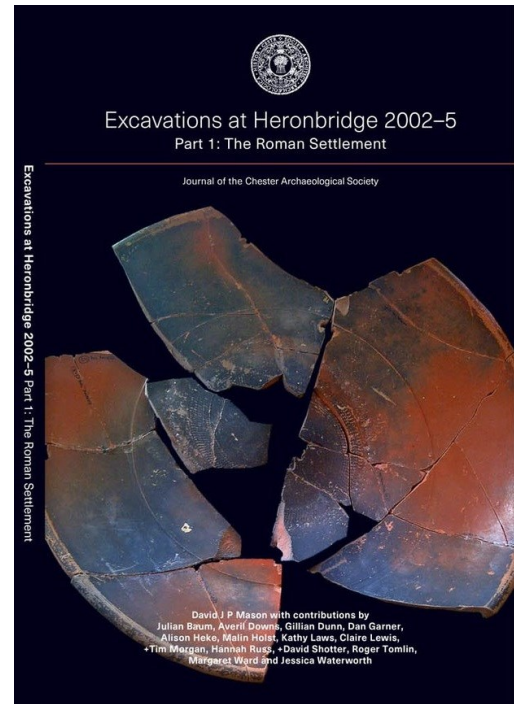


At our final, in-person lecture at the Grosvenor Museum on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, Paul dedicated his talk to Rosemary and gave us a fascinating tour of what it was like to collaborate with David on 'Rosemary's Baby', meaning the Corpus project. Along the way, we were taken with them to individual sites, where Paul explained how the, sometimes controversial, interpretations of the sites and sculpture emerged, which ones made it into the volumes or research articles and papers, and which ones he still cherishes but never put into print.

A write up by our Publicity Officer Andie Byrnes can be found on her excellent blog, Based in Churton.

*Tom Pickles, Chair*

## Heronbridge



Since our last Newsletter, CAS Members should have received their copies of the long-awaited Heronbridge report. Without reiterating the contents it is important to note the importance of the site, recognise this achievement, and thank all those involved. Of course, the site at Heronbridge was already known and was chosen as a suitable focus to allow CAS to undertake its own excavations from 2002-5. Thanks to this work, the volume makes a convincing case that we should think in terms of a fortress at Chester with two distinct civilian settlements with differing legal status – the *canabae legionis* immediately outside the fortress, and a *vicus* at Heronbridge. The excavations determined the limits of the site, a ribbon settlement alongside the Watling Street road, uncovered the quay on which it depended, and clarified the chronology, suggesting intensive occupation and activity to the end of the third century but contraction in the fourth century. Having had no involvement in the excavations or publication, I think it is not invidious to say that the volume is exemplary in its summary of existing work, outline of the excavated structures, discussion and analysis of the settlement, and specialist reports on individual find types. To mark this publication we have invited David Mason to speak to us on Heronbridge as part of this season's CAS Lectures.

*Tom Pickles, Chair*

## Festivals



**M**embers of CAS made a number of super contributions to the Chester Heritage Festival and Chester Festival of Ideas in June and July 2024.

Our Vice-President and Editor, Peter Carrington, ran three free tours of the Heronbridge archaeological site (all sold out, one pictured above).

Our Secretary, Clare Dudman, penned a brilliant play based on the life of Thomas Brassey, 'the world's greatest builder of railways', told through the voices of the people who might have known him, which was filmed and can be watched here at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUxP5fh-G5s>

Our Webmaster, Julian Baum, offered an acclaimed insight into his digital reconstructions of Roman Chester for the Festival of Ideas, prompting multiple requests for us to invite him to speak to the Society, so we are nobbling him for the CAS Lectures 2025-6.

Our Chair and Vice-Chair, Tom Pickles and Katherine Wilson, held consultations on the draft Historic Towns Trust Historical Map of Chester – they are enormously grateful for all the comments over the course of the Festivals and from CAS members by e-mail, which they are busy working into a new draft of the map and accompanying gazetteer (draft cover to the right!).

AN HISTORICAL MAP OF  
**CHESTER**  
MERCANTILE CENTRE & CATHEDRAL CITY

SHOWING MAJOR MEDIEVAL  
AND LATER BUILDINGS  
AND PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND  
EXPLANATORY GAZETTEER

TOWN & CITY  
HISTORICAL  
MAPS No. 20

## Reconnecting Roman Britain

Following the continued success of the 'Reconnecting Roman Britain' event, the Archaeology Committee of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, University of Chester and CAS are hosting a one-day, in-person event aimed at showcasing the latest research and findings on Britain in the Roman world and enhancing cross-sector and community connections. We are planning a combination of longer (20-minute) papers, posters, as well as lightning round, 5- minute presentations.

Reconnecting Roman Britain is being led by Dr Caroline Pudney of Archaeology at the University of Chester with CAS Council Members Andie Byrnes, Peter Carrington, Pauline Clarke, Clare Dudman, and Tom Pickles.

The conference will take place in the Grosvenor Museum on Saturday 23rd November.

Peter is generously offering participants a tour of Roman Chester in advance of this conference, on 22 November, and has proposed a talk on 'Reconnecting Roman Chester', focusing on the latest discoveries that shed light on the economic and cultural relationship between the fortress and its extramural settlement and neighbouring rural sites.

Look out for further details of how to sign up following the official launch, which we will circulate to CAS Members.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Roman Society website. The header includes the URL 'romansociety.org', the society's logo, and the text 'THE ROMAN SOCIETY SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMAN STUDIES'. A navigation menu lists: Home, About, Publications, Library, Events, Grants & Prizes, Schools & Resources, Archaeology, Membership, and Imago. The main content area features a large 'Home' heading and a paragraph stating: 'The Roman Society was founded in 1910 to advance the understanding of ancient Rome and the Roman Empire. Today the Roman Society has almost 2,000 members worldwide and is the leading organisation for those interested in Roman history, archaeology, literature and art. Join us and enjoy reading our prestigious journals (Britannia and the Journal of Roman Studies), access to one of the world's greatest classics libraries, and a varied programme of events, including conferences, lectures and site visits. The Society encourages Roman studies by offering a wide range of grants to support research and publications, by providing training opportunities for young researchers, and by promoting the teaching of Latin in schools.' Below this text are two images: one of a bookshelf with 'BRITANNIA' books and another of a library interior. On the right side, there is a 'Latest News' section with two entries: 'Regional Heritage Centre's 51st Annual Archaeology Forum' dated 18/01/2024 and 'Grants Applications Deadline 31 January 2024' dated 18/01/2024, both mentioning Audrey Barrie Brown/Donald Atkinson Funds, Hugh Last and General Funds, Schools grants, and Britannia Award.

## St John's House Fund

CAS took over the administration of this fund (the residue of the money raised in the 1930s to purchase the site of the amphitheatre in Chester) from the St John's House Trust (see <https://chesterarchaeosoc.org.uk/grants-and-awards/>) and offers grants up to a total of £500 each year for archaeological work that will have a lasting public value. It has made its first grant, to Dr Rachel Pope of Liverpool University, to allow additional C14 dating of finds/deposits from excavations on the hillfort at Merrick's Hill, Edisbury, to allow more precise dating of the enclosures. Publication of the report on the excavations is expected at the end of 2024.

## Excursions

Our Excursions Officer, Pauline Clarke, has been doing fantastic work in organising trips for CAS Members, including a visit to St Collen's Church, Llangollen, and a bespoke tour by Aleta Doran of the Trena Cox stained glass windows at Chester Cathedral - a taster for Aleta's exhibition and workshops highlighted below.

Most recently, Pauline organised a guided tour of Nantwich and Clare Dudman, CAS Secretary, reports back as a participant:

It is hard to imagine Nantwich as an industrial town, and yet for a lot of its history, from Roman times until the 19th century, that's exactly what it was. Like all the Cheshire wiches, Nantwich made salt by evaporating brine in lead pans, courtesy of the 'Old Biot' (a pit over six metres deep close to the main bridge over the Weever) where brine bubbled out of the earth. It was a lucrative business. So, when a house in Nantwich accidentally caught fire in 1583, and rapidly converted most of the city to ash, Elizabeth I thought the ashen ruins worthy of rebuilding and arranged other people to pay for it.

The result is an Elizabethan town, and it was this we came here to imagine in the third excursion Pauline Clarke has arranged for the Chester Archaeological Society this year.



The trail started beside a barely distinguishable mound, possibly the site of the original castle, and close to the brine pit on the east side of the river Weever where the fire started. Over the bridge from here is Welsh Row, but that is a separate tour. Go on that one and you'll see the Wood Street, where two medieval salt houses were excavated in 1980 (there's an excellent leaflet in the museum).



Continuing with our town trail then we moved up to what was the old entertainment centre of the Tudor town. Here, at the meeting of roads called Swine Market and Oat Market, several old inns harboured bears, cocks and bulls for baiting. We looked around, listening to the detail: the bears were expensively imported at this time, and so the attacks by the dogs sometimes restrained so as not to kill - the bull and the cocks less lucky. It was easy to imagine the barks, bellows and squawks as we took in the slanting walls, the doors askew, and our guide pointed out the benefits of the straight trunks of the Sessile Oak, which was new to England at this time, and how the old native oak were preserved for the decorative curves of more expensive buildings.



We moved on to the town square, and saw the plaque where the grateful town commemorated the queen's 'charity' on the house where the scientist

Joseph Priestly lived before this restless soul was chased out of town again when he antagonised his neighbours, and then the street so narrow it was necessary to dive back into the doorway when the traffic passed. We ended with this fine building and its reincarnations of grocer, furniture store and clothes shop: each period leaving its mark on plaster and brickwork.



The guide was a retired teacher, and it showed. He was full of interesting anecdotes about this small and interesting market town. He loved this place, and at the end of it I think we all loved it too.



## CLHA

**M**embers of the Chester Archaeological Society are also members of the Cheshire Local History Association (<https://sites.google.com/site/cheshirelha/home>). When an invitation to their Quarterly meeting in Hoole arrived, I went along.

The first item on the agenda was the forthcoming Northwich History Day in the Grange Theatre, Northwich on the 19th October 2024. The title is 'The Future of Cheshire's Past', and this is going to have a strong archaeological strand this year.

Following Paul Newman from Cheshire Archives talking about the ongoing changes to Cheshire Archives; Mark Leah from CWAC will talk about recent Roman discoveries in Middlewich and Chester; Susie White the PAS officer from Wrexham on working with local groups; and Graeme White and Sharon Varney on Cheshire History publication - past, present and future.

The second item was the Cheshire History publication. Issue 64 is due out soon and costs £9.50 for non-members. Articles included CAS president Paul Booth's Quarter Session files; and articles on a pre-historic feature at Thornton Hough; Tarvin during the reformation, Cheshire women cheesemakers; the use of Chester's Blue coat as a branch of the London Foundling Hospital; Chester Royal Infirmary's stained-glass windows; women's sport in the 1920s; Chester blue plaques; and the General election of a hundred years ago.

Then it was the turn of the local history groups to report back: the Catalyst Museum Frodsham and District, Daresbury and Runcorn reported successful open days, talks and walks. Over coffee, I learnt about even more happening in the adjacent areas of Liverpool and Lancashire. All of these and more are listed in the main home page of the CLHA website

The afternoon ended with a talk by a very interesting talk by Linda Webb of Hoole History Society on the once famous gardens of Hoole House (<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/hoole-house>), the remnants of which are recorded the walls, trees and names of streets: Cedar Grove, Pine Grove, Myrica Grove, Willow Grove and the outline of the care home that was built in its place.

*Clare Dudman, Secretary*

## Advocacy

**W**e have recently responded to two 'strategic' consultations as well as to a number of individual development schemes.

### *National Planning Policy Framework*

As its name implies, the *National Planning Policy Framework* sets out the principles that governments expect to underlie new development in England and to be reflected in local plans. The new government has been seeking views on its proposed revisions to the framework, in particular with a view to increasing the supply of houses, by reducing the perceived uncertainties in the planning process and making it easier to build on 'grey belt' (degraded 'green belt' land) and previously developed land, and where necessary, on green belt.

Our response emphasised the need for all new development to contribute to the creation of spatially coherent, sustainable communities rather than just occur on isolated 'windfall' plots of land that happen to become available. In addition, the challenge for planners and architects is to enable the building of joined-up attractive town or local centres with a 'sense of arrival', rather than just functional but disjointed, amorphous seas of houses, retail parks and public infrastructure. Individual heritage assets or conservation areas can give a sense of identity or even help to shape such places.

Hand-in-hand with this there needs to be a vision-led approach to transport that gives precedence to pedestrians, cycling and public transport, and this needs to be applied to existing settlements, not just to new developments. Ever-increasing infrastructure for motor traffic threatens the 'walkability' of settlements and the character of historic centres (and has been tearing them apart since the 1960s). In fact, historic centres built before the motor age may offer a model for more accessible places designed for people.

If there is to be a presumption in favour of the (re-) development of large areas of land, this needs to be underpinned by an adequate knowledge of the archaeology, the constraints that it may impose and the mitigation that is likely to be necessary.

Chapter 16 of the framework, on the historic envi-

ronment, should include a presumption in favour of the adaptive reuse of locally listed buildings, in the context of a greater focus overall on the refurbishment of existing buildings rather than their demolition.

Renewable energy developments in the countryside, such as solar panel arrays, can threaten the historic environment in the form of shallow archaeological remains and earthworks. We therefore support the argument that local authorities proactively identify sites for such development to minimise these threats. Rural solar panel arrays, albeit arguably necessary, are not only unsightly but can waste agricultural land. The installation of solar panels on roofs should therefore be strongly encouraged for existing buildings and should become the norm for new ones.

### *Local Design Code*

To reduce popular objections to development schemes, governments have for some years been advocating the preparation by local authorities of design codes, specifying what sorts of development are likely to be approved, in terms of road layout, building sizes and styles etc; this has become more important with the desire to speed up planning approvals. As an initial stage in the preparation of such a code, Cheshire West and Chester Council has recently undertaken a 'Visual Preferences Survey' in cooperation with the Create Streets Foundation, asking residents which buildings in the borough they particularly like or dislike and why.

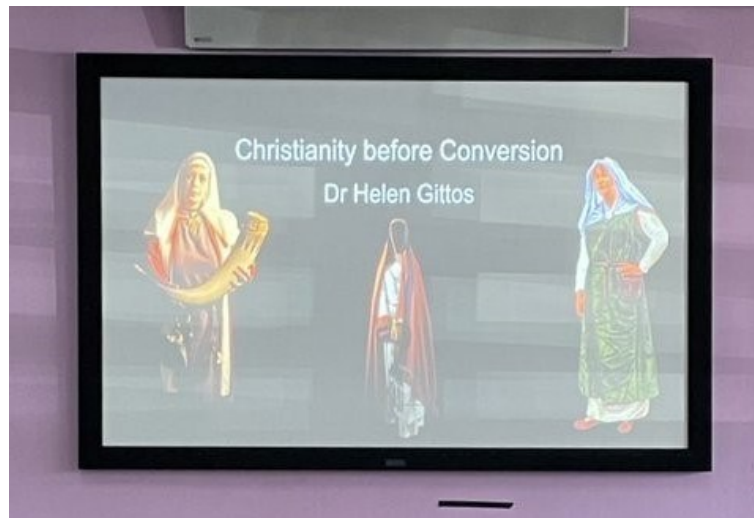
We have responded to this survey, restating our views on a range of buildings. However, we have also taken the opportunity to restate our views on wider issues related to masterplanning, especially as they relate to transport.

You can read our full responses on the [Advocacy](#) page of our website.

*Peter Carrington, Vice-President and Journal Editor*



## CAS Lectures 2024-2025



**F**or the coming season of CAS Lectures we have a fantastic line-up of speakers. Responding to feedback from CAS Members via CAS Council, we have added in some more in-person lectures this year to create a balance between in-person and online activities.

Following the tradition initiated last year, our first Lecture was held in collaboration with History & Archaeology at the University of Chester on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 15:00. It was great to see many CAS Members there in a packed audience including University staff, students, and members of the public from other societies too. Helen Gittos, of Balliol College, Oxford, treated us to a *tour-de-force*, rethinking the process of conversion of Christian in Old English-speaking Britain from the fifth to the seventh century. Based on wider models of conversion across the globe and across time, as well as recent emphasis on the household as a focus for early Christian activity and the role of women in the early Church, Helen has been researching female burials with liturgical objects. She argued that there were Christians in lowland southern and eastern Britain from the fifth century, well before the Roman preachers arrive from 597, and that these women had a prominent role in household religion and liturgy, explaining the high-status Christian women who emerge into the written record during the seventh century as powerful abbesses. Along the way we explored evidence from across the early Christian world and were introduced to intriguing liturgical objects for the first time, like spoon-strainers and wafer knives.

Our forthcoming lectures are:

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2024: Grosvenor Museum, 14:00 – Clive Tolley, 'Shamanism in pre-Christian Scandinavia'

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024: Zoom, 19:30 – Katy Soar, 'What Lies Beneath?'

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2024: Zoom, 19:30 – David Mason, 'Heronbridge Excavations 2002-05: The Roman Phases'

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2025: Zoom, 19:30 – Kirsty Lloyd, 'Warrington Excavations'

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025: In-Person/Zoom, 19:30 – Tony Wilmott, 'Chester and Richborough Amphitheatres'

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2025: Zoom, 19:30 – Toby Driver, 'Rethinking the Hillforts of Iron Age Wales'

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025: Grosvenor Museum, 14:00 – James Wright, 'Historic Building Mythbusting'

## Journal

Our CAS Journal Editor, Peter Carrington, has done typically sterling work in pulling together *JCAS* ns 94 and we are enormously grateful to him for doing so.

The scheduled contents for this forthcoming volume are:

I: Further evidence for a prehistoric barrow cemetery near Willaston, Wirral

*Rowan Patel*

II: Peckforton Mere enclosure, Cheshire: rotate to locate?

*Theodore Reeves*

III: A late Iron Age–early Roman skull from the River Gowy near Tarvin, Cheshire

*Charlotte L Howsam, Helen Webb, and Paul Dunn,*

*with illustrations by Maranda Wareham and Marie Rowland*

IV: Chester Business Park 2003: a summary of the excavation of a late prehistoric and Roman rural site

*Dan Garner*

V: Townfield Lane, Farndon, Cheshire, 2022: a Roman enclosure and early medieval iron-smithing site

*Chris Matthews and Nick Dawson*

VI: A medieval boundary stone at Thurstaston, Wirral

*Rowan Patel*

VII: Gloverstone: a vanished Chester community

*Tom Welsh*

VIII: Cheshire past in 2022

1: Sites investigated

*Kirsty Lloyd and Mark Leah with contributions by*

*Julie Edwards, Alex Jenkins and Mike Nevell*

2: Archaeology, heritage and Chester Contemporary

*James Dixon*

## CAS Officers—Vacancies

Three of our valued CAS Council Members and Officers will be stepping down in 2025 and we are seeking volunteers from amongst the membership to replace them.

### *Treasurer and Membership Secretary*

After a long period of excellent service, Hugh Bray will be standing down as Membership Secretary at the end of 2024, which is also the end of the current CAS financial year.

The key responsibilities of this role are to:

- Maintain records of the Society's income and expenditure using the established MS Excel spreadsheet.
- Prepare a yearend financial statement.
- Pay invoices and deposit income into the Society's bank account.
- Maintain records of membership subscriptions using established MS Excel spreadsheet.
- Manage membership payments.

- Attend Council meetings to provide up-to-date financial information.

#### Web Master

After doing a terrific job implementing our project to update our CAS Website, which will conclude with a new website in 2025, Julian Baum will stand down as Web Master.

The key responsibilities of this role are to:

- Regularly update the CAS web site pages as specified by web page “owners” (other Council Members who supply content)
- Liaise with the company that manages our web Hosting and Domain
- Ensure that Hosting and Domain fees are paid by the CAS Treasurer

#### Publicity

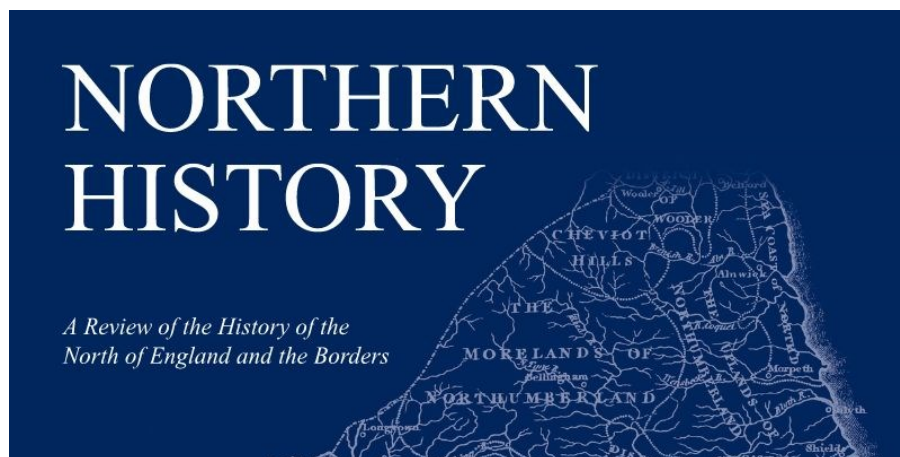
Having done a great job establishing a new role, Publicity Officer, and leading our project to update our CAS Website, Andie Byrnes will also stand down when that project is complete in 2025.

The key responsibilities of this role are to:

- Circulate e-mails to CAS Member via our established mail management system
- Liaise with other societies to share news of our and their activities
- Share news via our Social Media accounts (Facebook, X)

Hugh, Julian, and Andie have kindly agreed to mentor anyone who takes up their role until they are comfortable with the responsibilities.

If you are interested in considering taking on any of these roles e-mail: [chair@chesterarchaeolsoc.org.uk](mailto:chair@chesterarchaeolsoc.org.uk)



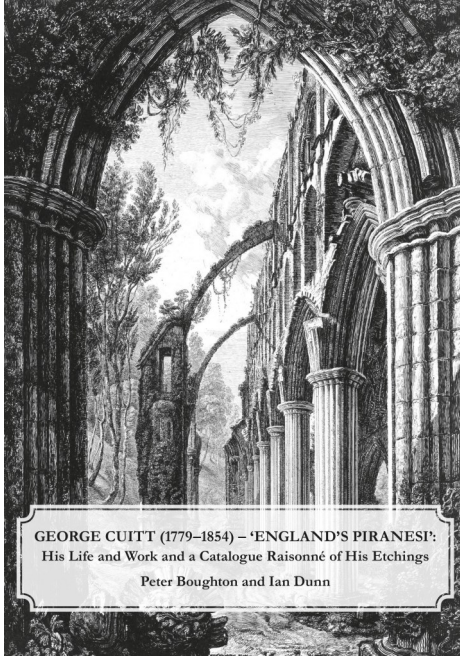
## Cheshire Cheesemaking

**P**eter J. Atkins and Andrew Lamberton, 'Cheesemaking in Cheshire 1550-1750', *Northern History*, 61:2 (2024)

A major reassessment of cheesemaking in early modern Cheshire has appeared, Open Access (meaning you can download it for free) in the journal *Northern History*. Peter Atkins and Andrew Lamberton investigate why Cheshire became the supplier of cheese to London and to northern industrial cities across the 200 years from 1550-1750. They do so by combining an historical and material culture approach, considering probate inventories alongside the tools of cheesemaking. Rejecting the environmental determinism of their school geography teachers, they argue that this was the result of contingent factors – the position of Chester as an Irish Sea port, its role in supplying armies during the Civil Wars and Commonwealth, and the opportunism and skill of the London wholesale cheesemongers. Along the way you will learn about cheese tubs, cheese ladders, cheese vats, cheese cloth, cheese boards, cheese presses, powdering troughs, and thrutching.

## Grosvenor Museum

Get on down to the Grosvenor Museum for its terrific current exhibitions and upcoming events!



George Cuiitt, *'The Romance of Ruins – the Etchings of George Cuiitt'*, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024-12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Gallery One – 13:30-15:00 Sat 12<sup>th</sup> October join curators to hear more.

At the Chester Festival of Ideas this July I was fortunate to have a stand next door to the Chester University Press stand staffed by the wonderful Sarah Griffiths. Amongst the many excellent volumes was Peter Boughton and Ian Dunn, *George Cuiitt (1779–1854) – 'England's Piranesi': His Life and Work and a Catalogue Raisonné of His Etchings* (Chester University Press 2022, ISBN 978-1-910481-07-3, £35.00, which can be purchased online at [https://storefront.chester.ac.uk/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=12\\_14&products\\_id=1128](https://storefront.chester.ac.uk/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=12_14&products_id=1128). CAS Members may know that Peter was Keeper of Art at the Grosvenor Museum and his bequest funded the amazing high-quality illustrations in this volume. As the Grosvenor says: George Cuiitt (1779-1854) was Chester's greatest Regency artist. His etchings of the city's medieval architecture and the ruined abbeys of Yorkshire invite us to look again at these familiar places. So, make sure to visit their exhibition and why not purchase this book to learn more.

Louise Rayner, *'Victorian Watercolour'*, 21st Septem-

ber 2024 – 9th February 2025, Gallery Two

Louise Rayner along with her iconic paintings of Chester will need no introduction to CAS Members and it is a real treat to have her works out on display for us until 9<sup>th</sup> February.

### Object of the Month

The Grosvenor's popular 'Object of the Month' talks continue

On 10th October from 13.00 - 13.30 the focus will be the collection of distinctive ring-headed pins found at Meols on the North Wirral Coast. Those who attended the CAS Conference 2023 may remember David Griffiths' analysis of tenth-century 'viking' activity around the Irish Sea and our region, for which these pins are an important piece of evidence, and you can get a brief context from the University of Chester Global History in One City film on Viking Age Chester with Liz Montgomery speaking about these finds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhfxbV0rJiE>



On 7th November from 13.00pm - 13.30 you will be taken behind the scenes at the museum and introduced to work to improve documentation of the costume collection.

To celebrate Halloween you can participate in a *Deadly Museum Trail* between 8th October and 3rd November and on 30<sup>th</sup> October from 13:00 – 16:00 you can take part in our cinema-themed handling session and watch *Frankenstein's Monster* (1931) on the big screen of the lecture theatre.

To get you in the mood for Christmas, you can visit the *Dickensian Grotto* on 30th November from 11:00 -13:00 and 14:00-16:00, for £10.00. Book via Web Ticket Manager: <https://www.wtm360.co.uk/>

## Chester Cathedral

Chester Cathedral is playing host to a major exhibition by Aleta Doran, 'Trena Cox: Reflection 100', from 7<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> November in the Cathedral Cloisters: <https://chestercathedral.com/events/event/15207>

As those who attended our bespoke tour led by Aleta will know, the subject is Chester's renowned stained glass artist and her works. It includes her own in-situ work as well as responses to it by local artists. It is part of Aleta's ongoing Trena Cox Project (<https://www.aletadoran.co.uk/thetrenacoxproject>).

Moreover, the exhibition is accompanied by workshops and activities designed to teach you more about Trena Cox, how stained glass is made, and the exciting artwork that lights up our churches and halls.

A Symposium and Keynote will take place on Friday 25th October.

Family Activity workshops will occur throughout Autumn at the Cathedral.

There will be talks on Cox's work and the process of making the exhibition: Community Co-Creation (Clare Owens) and St Christopher Window Conservation (Carlotta Cammelli)

There will be Sketchbook Saturdays on 19th October and 2nd November

There will be guided walks by Green Badge Guide Katie Crowther and Aleta Doran on Wednesday 16th October and Sunday 3rd November.

Finally, there will be an exhibition at Grosvenor Museum (February 2025) exploring the civic input and legacy of Trena Cox.

## ALETA DORAN

[Home](#) [The Trena Cox Project](#) [Blog](#) [Events](#) [Map](#) [Acknowledgements](#) [Contact](#)



I have a lifelong interest in church art and architecture, particularly stained glass and mosaics. This fascination has taken me on many journeys throughout the UK and beyond and has inspired my own artwork.

## History & Archaeology Lectures



**H**istory & Archaeology at the University of Chester have a series of free online papers and a final in-person paper coming up from October to March and CAS Members are encouraged to attend. Links to the online events will be circulated to Members before each paper.

*Wednesday 30th October, 13:00-14:00, Online via Teams*

Tim Grady, University of Chester, 'Burying the Past: British-German Relations and the Enemy War Dead'

*Wednesday 27th November, 13:00-14:00, Online via Teams*

Rosamund Oates, Manchester Metropolitan University, 'Medieval and Early Modern Deafness'

*Wednesday 8th January, 13:00-14:00, Online via Teams*

Sally Foster, University of Stirling, 'Cracks, chips and copies: new insights on the life, contemporary value and authenticity of the Stone of Scone / Destiny'

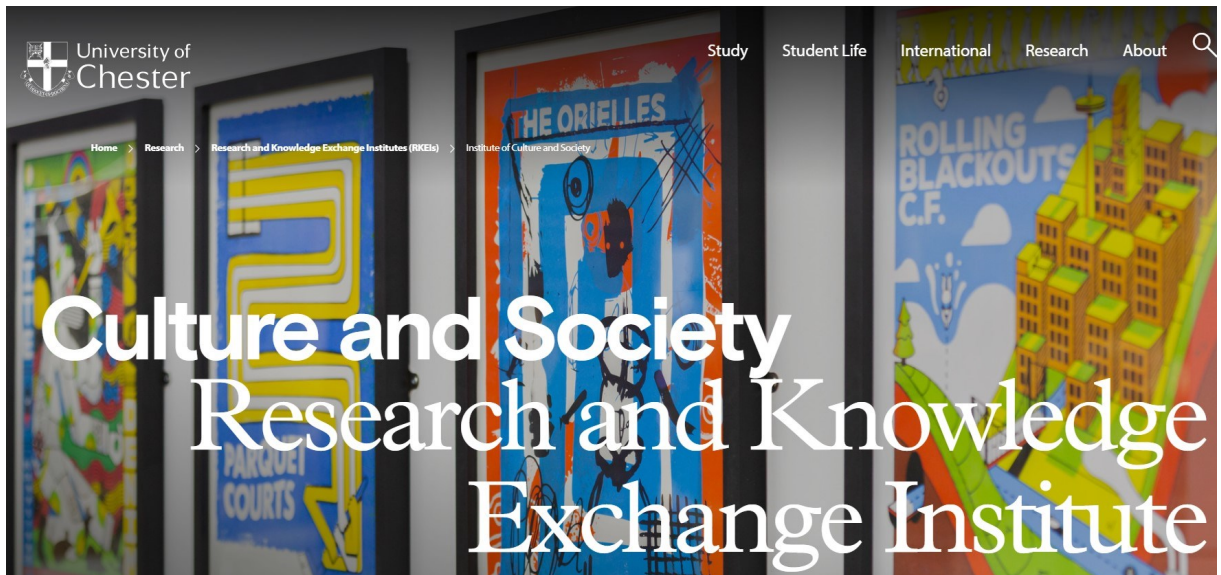
*Wednesday 12th February, 13:00-14:00, Online via Teams*

Craig Griffiths, Manchester Metropolitan University, 'Human Rights and the Sodomy Law: Queer Petitions in Cold War Germany'

*Wednesday 26th March, 13:00-14:00, Binks CBK013/1&2*

Anwen Cooper, Oxford Archaeology, 'Rewilding' later prehistory: Archaeological wildlife and its role in contemporary nature recovery'

## RKEI Culture and Society Lectures



The University of Chester's Research and Knowledge Exchange Institute for Culture and Society is running a series of free, public, in-person lectures from October to April and CAS Members are encouraged to attend.

6.00-7.15pm (Wheeler, CRV 139)

In Person Event.

Wheeler Campus (Chester). Lecture Theatre CRV 139, Castle Drive, CH1 1SL

Tickets: Free and open to all to attend (University and public) - <https://tinyurl.com/yckka2uf>

### *Tuesday 22 October*

Liam Evans-Ford (Executive Director and CEO, Theatr Clwyd), 'Arts for the future - Theatr Clwyd, what does a modern arts institution need to become?'

### *Thursday 28 November*

Helen West and Esther Humphries (University of Chester), 'How Swiftly Does Swift's Accent Shift?: The Language of Taylor Swift'

### *Tuesday 21 January 2025*

Stewart Ainsworth (Public Archaeologist / University of Chester), 'Mapping the Past: From Ordnance Survey to Time Team'

### *Tuesday 18 February 2025*

Stephen Broadbent (Sculptor), 'Keeping Faith in Art'

### *Thursday 3 April*

The Singh Twins (Contemporary British Artists), 'Artistic Responses to Empire and Colonialism and its Legacies'

## CBA Conference and CLHS History Day

The CBA North West Conference will take place on , Saturday 26th October in Tiviot Dale Methodist Church, 2-4 Tiviot Dale, Stockport, SK1 1TA, from 09:30-16:00, £12:50 members, £15:00 non-members.

Speakers include Rachel Pope on Eddisbury Hill Fort, Norman Redhead on Castleshaw Roman Forts, Ashley brogan on the Mesolithic North West, Mike Nevell on Altrincham's medieval timber buildings, and Paul Hartley on Stockport Conservation Area.

Cheshire Local History Association History Day, 'The Future of Cheshire's Past', will take place on Saturday 19th October from 09:15-16:30, at The Grange Theatre, Bradburns Lane, Hartford, Cheshire, CW8 1LU, costing

£15.00.

Paul Newman, CALS Archives and Heritage Manager, 'The future of Cheshire Archives: A story shared'

Mark Leah, Senior Historic Environment Planning Officer (Archaeology) Cheshire, 'Revealing Cheshire's Past: recent work on Roman sites in and around Chester and discoveries at Middlewich'.

Susie White, FLO PAS North East Wales, 'Pioneering work: engaging finder groups, local museums and communities in reporting and recording of finds'

Graeme White and Sharon Varey, 'Cheshire History Past, Present, Future'

### Grants and Awards

We shall be making the following grants and awards in 2024-25:

#### Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

Our annual prize of £100 for the best Final Year dissertation in the Dept of History and Archaeology at the University of Chester.

#### PAS Finds Study Grant

A grant of up to £700 for the study of finds from the pre-1974 county of Cheshire reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the results to be published in our journal.

*The Society has advertised this grant with an application deadline of Sunday 28th April 2024.*

#### St John's House Fund

Grants totalling up to £500 pa for archaeological work in Cheshire. Applications may be made at any time of year.

For more information on all these grants and awards, see <https://chesterarchaeolsoc.org.uk/grants-and-awards/>.

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