

ARCHAEOLOGY

West Midlands

CBA West Midlands Newsletter

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To our subscribers

We at CBA West Midlands would like to wish you Happy New Year, and hope that 2021 is an improvement on 2020!

We are pleased to announce that our annual News from the Past event will be going ahead online on Saturday 6th March, hosted by Wessex Archaeology, and with a special appearance from Phil Harding.

The day will have a number of live talks about archaeological discoveries in the region, with opportunities for Q&A, and breaks for tea and coffee, and lunch.

The day is free, so please do invite friends and family along.

Details of the talks are included in this newsletter, and on our website

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php>

Virtual museums, talks, and tours

Podcasts on Wroxeter and the Roman West Midlands

Amongst several podcasts about the region, History West Midlands has recently released podcasts by Dr Roger White of the University of Birmingham on Wroxeter Roman city and the Roman West Midlands.

<https://historywm.com/podcasts>

Virtual Tour of Shrewsbury Castle archaeological excavations

<http://psg.shropshire.gov.uk/virtual-tours/?id=2903>

Birmingham Museum virtual tour

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag/virtual-tour>

Herefordshire Museum and Art Gallery Life through a Lens virtual tour

<https://www.herefordshirelifethroughalens.org.uk/virtual-exhibition-tours/>

Warwick Castle Virtual Tour

<https://historyview.org/library/warwick-castle/>

Explore Staffordshire Tithe maps, recently made available online

Both the maps and the apportionments can be viewed on this newly published resource

<https://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk/search.aspx?SearchType=2&PageIndex=1&ThemeID=774>

Walk around the UNESCO Black Country Geopark

If you're local to the Black Country there are many Geosites to walk and exercise in within the UNESCO Black Country Geopark (and for everyone else once lockdown is over)

<https://blackcountrygeopark.dudley.gov.uk/sites-to-see/>

Many of our local societies are running their talk series via zoom!

Find Us!

Y	S	T	X	N	H	O	O	K	W	A	Y	A	Q
R	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	C	H	N	Y	Y
I	L	N	X	W	S	E	A	J	O	O	N	E	R
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X	E	J	E	C	R	O	U	C	H	T	I	U	U
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Crouch

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Haslam

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Hookway

Hunt

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Worcester Life Stories Project

By Sheena Payne-Lunn

I was pleased to be able to present at our 2020 AGM on a new initiative called Worcester Life Stories at the end of November. The project was launched by Worcester City Council and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust at the end of June thanks to an award of £79,400 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is led by myself alongside Dr Natasha Lord, Clinical Psychologist.

The two-year project will provide a whole host of workshops, exhibitions and activities as well as the creation of an online platform called Know Your Place Worcester, based on the original model created by Bristol City Council. Here, local people will be able to discover many thousands of historic photographs and maps, and share their own knowledge and stories of the city.

A second platform, itself called Worcester Life Stories is being developed alongside local people and will enable users to create and download their own life books and movies, full of images and memories, as well as accessing history packs on a range of local themes. This platform, hosted by the NHS Trust will be particularly valuable for people living with dementia and their carers as a toolkit for improving wellbeing, communication and inclusion.

Stakeholders in the project include Age UK, Platform Housing (social housing provider), Worcestershire Association of Carers, and the University of Worcester. Additional funding has also been provided by Historic England to undertake research into the impact of the two platforms and people's interaction with heritage on their health and wellbeing.



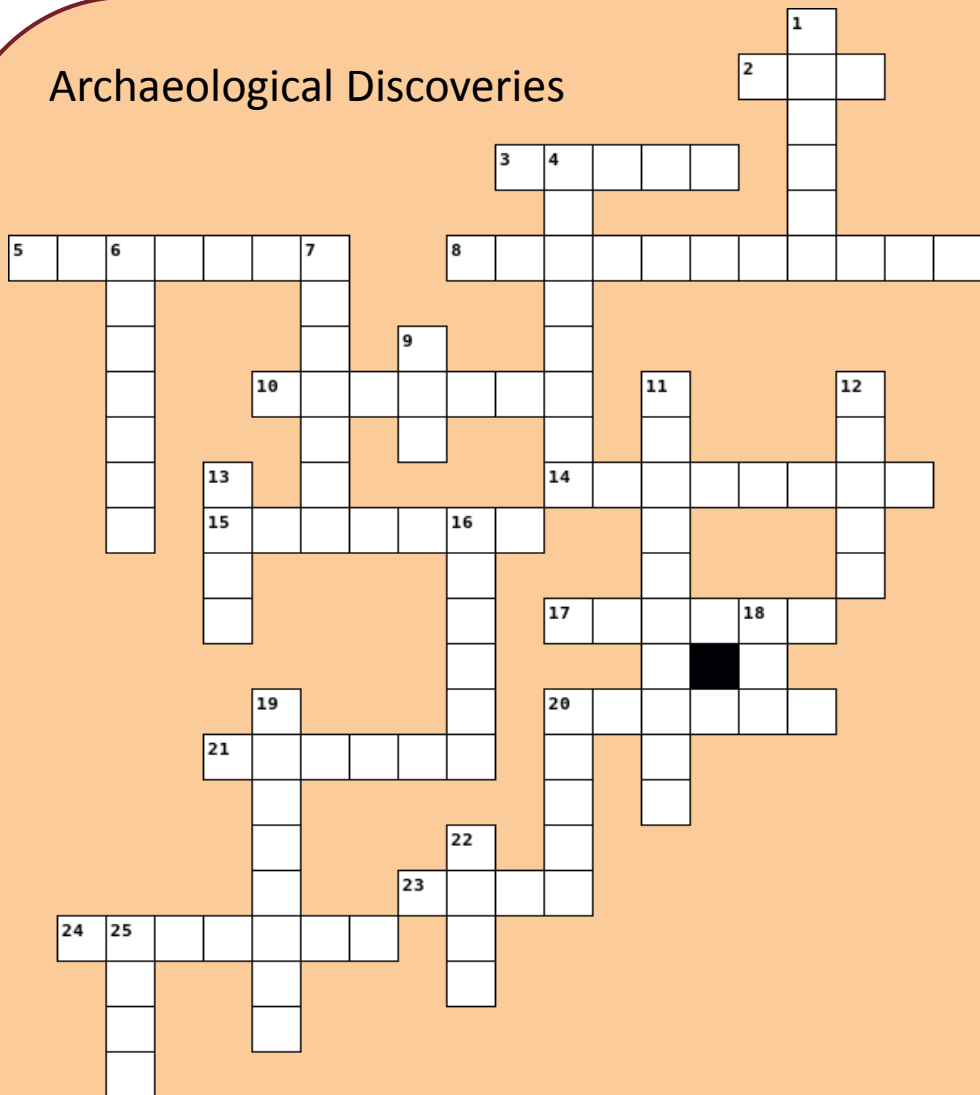
The photographs included here are taken from the Worcester City Historic Environment Record which holds a collection of around 35,000 photographs from the 1950s onwards, a collection which will be made available online via the Know Your Place Worcester platform. They were taken by officers of the city council going about their day to day work, especially focusing on building conservation and public health. The collection provides a fascinating, nostalgic window into the pre-digital age of the 20th century, from the more familiar, such as our historic High Street, all the way through to areas of the city that were bulldozed in the slum clearances of the 1960s.

If you would like to find out more about the project, further information is available at worcesterlifestories.org.uk or on Facebook and Twitter. We also have a number of videos available via the Worcester Life Stories YouTube channel.



Photos are of Carden Street Clearance Area, 1959; Infirmery walk, late 1950s; the Public Hall, Cornmarket, demolished in the 1960s

Archaeological Discoveries



Across

2. See 1 down

3. (and 17 across) Well preserved ruins of a 15th century Inca site, rediscovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham III (5,6)

5. See 19 down

8. See 16 down

10. (and 23 across) 11,000 year old archaeological site, located in southern Turkey, near the modern day city of Urfa. Discovered in 1963, researchers believe may be a prehistoric temple (7,4)

14. Bronze Age settlement on the Greek island of Thera, buried and preserved after a volcanic eruption in 1500BC, excavated in 1967 (8)

15. (and 20 down) Ancient slab carved in 196BC and discovered in 1799 in the port city of el-Rashid (7,5)

17. See 3 across

20. (and 18 down) Located in the east of England, the site of several early medieval cemeteries including an Anglo-Saxon ship burial unearthed in 1939 (6,3)

21. (and 4 down) Site of Palaeolithic drawings of bison, aurochs, horses, deer and outlines of human hands, discovered in Spain in 1879 by an amateur archaeologist and his young daughter (6,8)

23. See 10 across

24. Roman city buried under pumice stone and ash in AD79, rediscovered in the late 16th century by an architect named Domenico Fontana (7)

Down

1. (and 2 across) Oldest surviving map of the Holy Land dating to around 560AD, is part of a floor mosaic in a Byzantine church in Jordan. Uncovered during renovations in 1884 (6,3)

4. See 21 across

6. (and 12 down) Steep ravine in the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania, holds the earliest evidence of our human ancestors, excavated by Louis and Mary Leakey (7,5)

7. See 22 down

9. See 22 down

11. (and 13 down) Unearthed in 1974 by Chinese farmers near the city of Xi'an, this huge collection of ancient figures was one of the biggest archaeological finds of the 20th century (10,4)

12. See 6 down

13. See 11 down

16. (and 8 across) Lavish burial chamber discovered in 1922 by a team of archaeologists led by Howard Carter (4,2,11)

18. See 20 across

19. (and 5 across) Bronze Age structure on the Greek Island of Crete built by Minoans around 1950BC, and excavated in the early 20th century by Arthur Evans (6,2,7)

20. See 15 across

22. (and 9 down and 7 down) Collection of manuscripts written between 250BC and AD68, discovered by accident in 1940s by a shepherd looking for a stray goat (4,3,7)

25. Copper Age mummy found by hikers in the Italian Alps in 1991 (4)



By Aisling Nash

What is OASIS?

OASIS is an online database of all historic environment related investigations carried out in England, Scotland and the maritime region of Wales. It is managed and maintained by the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) who are an accredited digital repository for heritage data.

Projects recorded on OASIS include not just fieldwork but also historic building recording and surveying and span the whole spectrum of the human story from the Palaeolithic to the modern age. Many of these projects are carried out as a result of developer-funded archaeology but academic and community research work is also represented.

Reports on the results of the work carried out can be uploaded to OASIS and from there they are transferred to the Library of the ADS. The ADS provides free online access to these otherwise unpublished reports thereby providing a valuable resource for researchers.

OASIS was first launched in 1999 and has been in its current form since 2004. During that time, over 90,000 records from England, Scotland and the maritime region of Wales have been collected. The unpublished reports of nearly 52,000 of these records have been made freely available in the Library of the ADS.

Who can use OASIS?

OASIS is inclusive so anyone who is carrying out fieldwork of all kinds across England and Scotland can add their project and upload the report of the findings. Community generated research has been shown to be of great value to the historic environment (British Archaeology 156). By using OASIS, community groups can add their research to the rich collection of heritage data in the Library of the ADS, which anyone can use to inform their own research. This data can also be used to inform large national research projects.

Why should OASIS be used?

As more researchers add their data to OASIS, it will become a centralised hub of information about the historic environment and greatly improve access to the wealth of heritage data in existence. The use of OASIS by community groups will ensure that their research is added to this collection, thereby increasing its value to the wider heritage world.

If you're interested in finding out more about OASIS, visit

<https://oasis.ac.uk/about.xhtml>

To register for a free OASIS account, contact herald@ads.ac.uk

To find out about depositing digital archives with the Archaeology Data Service, visit

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

Free OASIS Training

OASIS has been redeveloped in 2020 and Historic England have commissioned Aisling Nash of Ashtree Heritage and Alison James of MSDS Marine to run a series of training workshops on how to use the new system. These workshops are tailored for the different users of the system including community groups. Due to COVID 19, these workshops will take place online via Zoom webinar and we've tried to make the training as interactive as possible. They are free to attend with a maximum of 40 places per workshop. If what you've read has piqued your interest about OASIS, sign up for one of our OASIS for Community Groups sessions!

The training sessions are running until March 2021 with an OASIS for Community Groups workshop scheduled for the 24th February (evening) and Saturday 6th March. If you'd like more information on the courses themselves, email info@msdsmarine.co.uk

If you'd like to book a place, please visit:

<https://msdsmarine.com/projects/training/oasis-v-rollout-support/>

The Archaeology Data Service Library can be searched here

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/>

News from the Past Saturday 6th March 2021

FREE ONLINE EVENT

Our online day school, hosted by Wessex Archaeology, will as ever feature the latest archaeological discoveries from around the West Midlands. Running from 10am until 4.30pm, there will be presentations throughout the day followed by Q&A sessions. There are breaks for you to make tea/coffee and lunch built into the programme.

10am **Welcome and Introduction** (Sheena Payne-Lunn and Sam Fieldhouse, with special appearance by Phil Harding)

10.30 **Mike Hodder** (University of Birmingham), "Archaeology for Pevsner"

11.00 **Chris Patrick** (Birmingham City Council), "Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Conservation Projects in Birmingham"

11.30 Break

11.45 **Mike Shaw** (University of Birmingham), "Using GIS to Explore the Origins, Growth and Development of Medieval Towns"

12.15 **Joseph Perry** (The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery), "The Story of Stoke-on-Trent Young Archaeologists' Club"

12.45 Q&A

1pm Lunch Break

2.00 **Mary Ruddy** (WSP) "Archaeology for HS2 in the Midlands"

2.30 **Emma Carter** (Wessex Archaeology) "Uncovering Coleshill's Past"

3.00 Break

3.15 **Victoria Allnatt** (PAS), "Pandemic PAS/T: A round up of recent standout finds from the West Midlands including the 1.5 millionth find to be recorded by the scheme"

3.45 **John Hunt** (University of Birmingham), "The Twelfth Century Church and Sculpture at Ansley, Warwickshire: dates, themes and Saxo-Norman influences"

4.15 Q&A

4.30 Close

Registration for this free event is now open.

The following link will take you to the registration page where you can sign up.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8366946348877021200>

Places are limited, so early sign up is recommended.

Details of how to join this online day school will be sent to you nearer the date.

This is a new venture for us and we do hope you will be able join us.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the event please email Caroline Mosley, CBA West Midlands Event Co-Ordinator, at nftp.cbawm@gmail.com.

We look forward to you joining us in March.

Answers

Across

2. See 1 down
3. Machu Picchu
5. See 19 down
8. See 16 down
10. Gobekli Tepe
14. Akrotiri
15. Rosetta Stone
17. See 3 across
20. Sutton Hoo
21. Cave of Altamira
23. See 10 across
24. Pompeii

Down

1. Madaba Map
4. See 21 across
6. Olduvai Gorge
7. See 22 down
9. See 22 down
11. Terracotta Army
12. See 6 down
13. See 11 down
16. Tomb of Tutankhamun
18. See 20 across
19. Palace of Knossos
20. See 15 across
22. Dead Sea Scrolls
25. Otzi



ARCHAEOLOGY

West Midlands

Congratulations to Dr Nigel Tringham, Honorary Editor of the Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society Transactions, for his MBE for Services to Local History in the 2021 New Year Honours list.

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<http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/>