

ARCHAEOLOGY

West Midlands

CBA West Midlands Newsletter

Issue Number 32 Summer 2021

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**Dear subscribers,
We hope you are all well, and
enjoying summer now it has
finally arrived.**

**Our AGM will be held online
again this year, July 17th 11am –
12pm. There will be the business
meeting, then a talk (details to
be confirmed)**

**We are also having a field
meeting at Wall (Letocetum)
Roman Site on 4th September.**

Hope to see you there!

Museums are re-opening

To celebrate **Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery** reopening on Monday 17th May, entry for visitors will be FREE!

To keep everyone safe and to manage numbers, we recommend booking your ticket online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/shrewsburymuseum.

Shakespeare Walking Tour - daily throughout Summer

Master Shakespeare himself will be conducting tours throughout the Summer (23rd July until 3rd September) every day at 2pm from **Tudor World, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon**

<https://www.tudorworld.com/summer-events>

Etruria Industrial Museum Stoke-on-Trent 7th and 8th August – Shirley's 1857 Etruscan Bone & Flint Mill will be in steam and operating 12.30 to 16.30 as in Victorian times. Site open 11.00 to 17.00. <https://www.etruriamuseum.org.uk/>

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum re-opens 17 May, The Commandery and Worcestershire County Museum re-open 18 May 2021

Hartlebury Castle grounds are now open. Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum's Shop is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 11am – 4pm from 15 April, in line with non-essential retail opening, and will be open during normal opening times from 17 May.

<https://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/updates/>

Lunt Roman Fort is open, Coventry Road Baginton – book tickets on Eventbrite

<https://www.luntromanfort.org/events>

Black Country Living Museum is now open! Pre-booking is essential. Now booking up to Fri 23 July. <https://www.bclm.co.uk/>

The Black and White House, Hereford

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/history-lives/hereford-museums-art-gallery>

Council for British Archaeology
**FESTIVAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY**



There are both in the field and online events happening this year to celebrate the Festival of Archaeology. These include:

Where is the Mill? A trail and talk at Pendeford Mill Nature reserve, including excavations at the mill

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/where-mill-1623066629>

The Making of Tysoe Project. There will be displays of metal detecting finds /field walking finds from around the parish, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval etc. Archaeological Surveys of the Iron Age and Roman sites in the parish. Information about The Red Horse of Tysoe the lost hill figure that was at one time carved on the hill side.

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/making-tysoe-project-1622470424>

Ask an Archaeologist Day (online). #AskAnArchaeologist Day on Twitter is an official part of the CBA Festival of Archaeology and is a chance for people from all over the world to ask archaeologists questions, and an opportunity for archaeologists to share their knowledge.

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/ask-archaeologist-day-1620291231>

For more information and other events in our area visit

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/>

Drag yourself away from that screen and come on these site-based events!

Saturday 11 September: Medieval Yardley guided walks, starting from Blakesley Hall B25 8RN. Prior booking essential, small charge. Details nearer the time at <https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/blakesley>

Tuesday 14 September: Sutton Park Archaeology Walk with the Friends of Sutton Park Association. Free, booking not required. Meet at Town Gate (off Park Road, B73 6BU; Bus/train to Sutton Coldfield town centre, 0.5 miles away). Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. Details: <http://fospa.org.uk/>

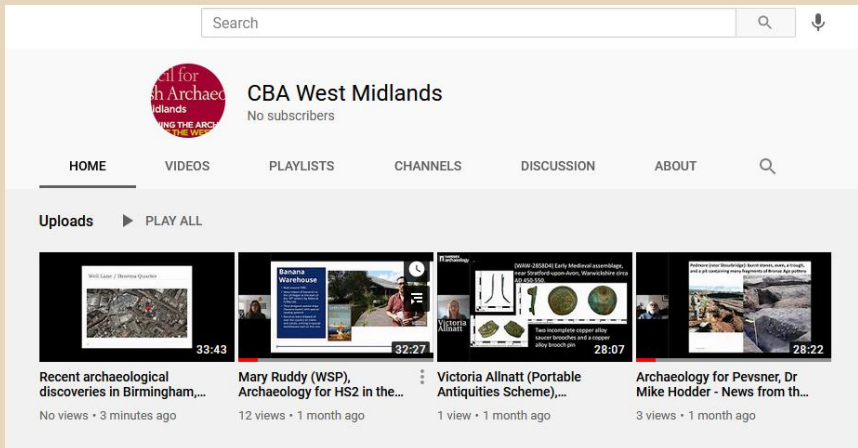
Saturday 2 October: Sutton Park Archaeology Walk with the Friends of Sutton Park Association. Free, booking not required. Meet at Jamboree Stone in centre of Sutton Park (vehicle access from Streetly Gate B74 3EW). Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. Details: <http://fospa.org.uk/>

Was it a dream?

When I arrived at the church hall in the suburbs, I was greeted with a handshake by the chairman of the local society and introduced to some other members. The hall rapidly filled up and more chairs were brought out to squeeze everyone in. My talk about a recently-discovered site in the vicinity was followed by several questions about the site itself and the archaeology of the area in general. Tea and biscuits were then produced. Most of the audience stayed for a while to chat to friends and several people came up to me with further questions.

I shook hands with people, spoke face-to-face with people who were really there and not on a screen, no-one wore a mask, and everyone sat and stood close together, inside the church hall. It must have been a dream!

Mike Hodder



If anyone missed our News from the Past online event, or would like to re-watch the talks, we are delighted to let you know that some are available now on YouTube.

We are hoping to add more content in the future, so do subscribe to us.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCett9m3ShJexHL4zgOv9aRg>

CBA West Midlands AGM

Saturday 17th July. 11am – 12pm. Online (zoom)

The business meeting will be followed by a talk. Details to follow.

Contact Caroline nftp.cbawm@gmail.com to sign up. Hope to see you there!

Ironbridge Coracle Trust

The Ironbridge Coracle Trust have been busy over lockdown restoring the Old Coracle Shed down by the Iron Bridge in Shropshire; building the New Coracle Shed at the Green Wood Centre to house an exhibition on coracle making and as a venue for a wider range of coracle-related activities for adults and children; commissioning and installing a coracle man sculpture by the Museum of the Gorge and devising a Coracle Trail to link these venues. The highlight of the year will be the Ironbridge Coracle Regatta to be held on Bank Holiday Monday 30th August.

Details of the trust and their events and activities can be found on their website (<https://ironbridgecoracles.org/>) or Ironbridge Coracle Trust Facebook. Their work has been supported by funding from the Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and Telford & Wrekin Council.



Coracle man sculpture – photo by Tom Blockley



Coracle regatta – photo Tom Blockley



New coracle shed – photo Tom Blockley

Council for British Archaeology, West Midlands

**Field meeting at Wall (Letocetum) Roman Site,
Staffordshire**

Saturday 4th September 2021, 1:00pm to 4:30pm

In conjunction with the *Friends of Letocetum*

Wall Village Hall, Watling Street, Wall WS14 0AW.

Wall is signposted from the A5 eastbound, east of its junction with the A461. There is a small car park a short distance from the Village Hall and limited roadside parking along Watling Street which runs through the village. Public transport on a Saturday is limited: bus stop on Birmingham Road 1 mile east; Lichfield City rail station is 2.5 miles away.





Please bring your own lunch because there are no places to buy food in the village. We hope to be able to serve tea and coffee.

Arrive from 12:30- tea/coffee available at Wall Village Hall

(The small site museum opposite the Village Hall will be open from 11:00; access arrangements are currently uncertain but are likely to be in small groups. The museum will be accessible throughout the day, until 5:00)

1:00: Event starts in Wall Village Hall: Welcome from Sheena Payne-Lunn (Chair, CBA West Midlands) and John Crowe (Chair, Friends of Letocetum); Brief introduction to Roman Wall (Mike Hodder) *Guidebooks available*

1:30: Tour of baths and mansio

2:45: Tea/coffee and scone in Village Hall

3:15: divide into two groups for **either** a walk around the Roman forts site **or** a walk to the late Roman *burgus* (both walks will include Watling Street and other aspects of Roman Wall)

4:30: End of event (the museum will remain open until 5:00)

Places are limited and prior booking is essential:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/field-meeting-at-wall-letocetum-roman-site-staffordshire-tickets-159588003013>

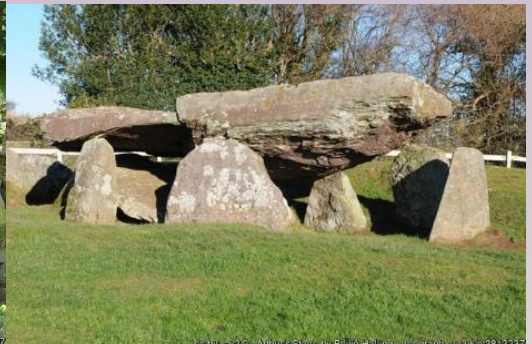
Subscribers favourite sites!

Do you have a favourite site that you've still been able to visit over the last year? Or one that you are looking forward to visiting again once 'normality' is restored?

Is there anything going on locally that you'd like to let us know about?

We'd love to hear from you, and give some publicity to some lesser known sites and events in our area!

Email ellie_cbawm@outlook.com with details and photos.



The Devil's Ring and Finger, 200m east of Norton Forge Farm, Staffordshire
Arthur's Stone, Dorstone, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR3 6AX
Edvin Loach Old Church, Bromyard, Herefordshire, HR7 4PW
White Ladies Priory, Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, WV8 1QZ

Tony Habberley: “Digger”

We were saddened to hear of the death in March this year of Tony Habberley, perhaps best known in the archaeological world as director of a long-running excavation at Acton Trussell in Staffordshire, a Roman villa on a site which also contained prehistoric remains. Judith Tunstall of the Penk Valley Archaeology Group, Tony’s digging team, has kindly provided this appreciation:

Tony took early retirement from T I Weldless Steel Tube Co. in Wednesfield, having held the position of Manager. The finished tubes were made to a very high specification, being used in demanding applications such as nuclear power stations, racing cars and aircraft. This expectation for precise detail was transferred to archaeology. He was the founder of “Penk Valley Archaeology Group”. His passion for Archaeology was apparent whilst talking to visitors. Tony was sincere, kind, generous and gained respect for his commitment to Acton Trussell Roman Villa site. Equipment was bought from his own funds. He was also an excellent baker and provided delicious cake at break time. We had many laughs. A bullock in a field didn’t concern Tony until it was found that the animal had chewed the thick rear window-wiper of his car! We looked forward to our yearly day outings as a group. Over the years we had interesting and good times. Tony, we miss you.

Judith Tunstall

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West Midlands

Summer Field 4th September

Wall Roman Site, Lichfield, Staffs

We are very grateful to the Friends of Letocetum who have agreed to host this year's Summer Field. This will be a great opportunity to visit this important staging post on Watling Street. Further information will be available soon. Please book via the link.

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