

NEWSLETTER

WORLD PREMIERE
BOOK NOWLIMITED
TICKETS
AVAILABLE
Full details
inside'BRIGHT
YOUNG THINGS'LATHOM TRUST'S 2,500 YEARS
PROGRESS IN 30 PHENOMENAL MONTHS

Pictures show Ron Cowell with his on-site archaeological team and (insert) a typical example of a Roundhouse



Ron Cowell and his Field Archaeology Section from Liverpool Museum has recently completed a fourth season of excavations at the site of Duttons Farm in Lathom.

As well as academic and educational groups involvement, the site has also featured in the work undertaken in Lathom generally, through a Local Heritage Initiative grant obtained by the Lathom Park Trust, which has allowed members to assist in the geo-

physical survey work that has been carried out. A short film of the site was made this year, for inclusion in a display that will form part of a new, interactive archaeology gallery in Liverpool Museum and a page has also been prepared for the Lathom Park Trust website, which will be up and running very shortly.

The excavations this year concentrated on extending two areas excavated in previous years and the opening up of a completely new area, to test the extent of occupation across the site.

The latter area was successful in showing evidence of further settlement activity, about 60 metres to the south of the main settlement site, found in previous years. As yet, these new settlement features are undated, but superficially they appear similar to those already uncovered dating to about 2000 years ago.

The main settlement, uncovered in previous seasons, consists of five or six roundhouses, part of a long-lived farmstead, set within a large encircling ditch, which probably had a bank and hedge on its inner edge. This settlement dates from about 200 BC to about 150 AD. There are indications from this year's work that a wooden palisade or large fence may have preceded the digging of the ditch to enclose the settlement.

A Roman trackway has now been found to run through the western edge of the settlement. Although there is not enough evidence, currently, to be absolutely certain, it appears that the settlement had probably ceased to exist before the track was formed. This suggests that during the Roman period, of about the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, the farming landscape of the settlement changed dramatically. This evidence relates exactly to one of the main aims of the project, which was to identify if the arrival in the North West of the Roman army, administration and associated culture had any impact on the pre-existing farming communities in the region. Evidence is now appearing that will help answer this question. This is true, not only of the area of the main settlement, but also in an area about 80 metres to the west, where a network of other trackways and field boundaries of Roman and later date, found in previous seasons, continues to be worked upon and extended. The geophysical survey this year was intended to develop even further our understanding of the extent of the below-ground, hidden landscape and settlement features outside the excavated areas. The results of this work are still awaited.

Slowly, therefore, a large-scale view of an agricultural estate, dating to more than 2000 years ago, is emerging. Not only, for the first time in the North West lowlands, can we now identify the characteristics of such a site, but evidence is accumulating that allows us to chart its development through to the present day. More ambitiously, with a good sequence of dating, we may be able to investigate links between the changes seen on this site and the major political, social and economic events that we know happened over the last 2000 years from historical sources, but upon which archaeology is almost silent in this region. The work has been supported by Liverpool University, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, the British Academy, West Lancashire District Council, Lancashire County Council, Lathom Park Trust and WCF Burscough, and is only possible through the kind co-operation of the Beesley family.

R. Cowell, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Section



RON COWELL'S next dig is planned for May.
If you are interested in helping, please contact Ron now.
Only a limited number of places are available.



Mark Hill



Pam Nanson

NEW TRUSTEES
JOIN BOARD OF LPT.

With the escalation and success of the Lathom Park Trust it is essential to broaden the base of Trustees to cope with increasing workloads and emerging projects.

We are therefore delighted to welcome to the Board, Pam Nanson and Mark Hill, both residents of Lathom, with enormous local knowledge of the fascinating Lathom history and totally committed to the Trust's continuing success.





General, Sir Thomas Fairfax

MORE IMPORTANT THAN CROMWELL IN LATHOM

NEW PARK - GREAT NEW ARCHIVE DISCOVERIES

The archive research team are currently investigating documentary accounts of New Park in Lathom.

Evidence of a second great house and hints of a now deserted medieval village have come to light and the team hope to publish a detailed report of their findings towards the end of the year.

In the sixteenth century, New Park was one of three residences in Lancashire belonging to the Stanley family, earls of Derby, the others being Knowsley and Lathom House. Throughout the Tudor period the earls of Derby lived alternately at each of their Lancashire seats. The house at New Park was run by an enormous retinue of 140 liveried servants (60 was considered a large number during this period).

A look in the Derby Household accounts shows that a 'quiet' week's Christmas entertainment here involved the consumption of: one whole ox, a dozen calves, a score of sheep, 15 hogsheads of beer, and plenty of bread, fish and poultry. The same books mention the visit of the Queen's Players; including one William Shakespeare, on October 10th 1588.

During the civil war New Park was the headquarters of the supreme Parliamentary General, Sir Thomas Fairfax (more important than Cromwell at this time) and several thousand of his troops who took part in the first and unsuccessful siege of nearby Lathom House.

The house at New Park was probably demolished soon after the end of the civil war, only parts of the moat can be seen today.

New Park is presently owned and occupied by Ormskirk Golf Club.

SB 2003



Archive group member, Peter Sewell standing next to his fireplace, originally a sandstone door lintel or 4-centred fireplace arch from the fabric of the Tudor New Park house.



New Park now owned by Ormskirk Golf Club

'BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS'

brings back memories for Madeleine.....

"He didn't come across as a luvvie. He was just a very nice gentle man" says Lathom journalist Madeleine Were, a member of the Trust's Theatre Group who interviewed Ivor Novello not very long before his death in 1951.

The star played Manchester Palace frequently in his unforgettable musicals such as 'Glamorous Night', 'The Dancing Years' and 'King's Rhapsody' and Madeleine remembers him putting his make-up on at the dressing table which would be flanked by two big photographs; one of his mother and one of his much-loved dog.

There were two such meetings with about a year in between. The second time Madeleine popped her head round the dressing room door she had no need to introduce herself, "It's Miss Sunday Express; isn't it?" said Ivor, identifying her instantly.

As well as being actor, composer, songwriter and playwright, he was obviously one of those rare people who seldom forget a face.



Ivor Novello

HANDS ON EXPERIENCE WITH LATHOM'S MASTER STONEMASON

Over five hundred visitors enjoyed a wide range of presentations and activities organised by the Lathom Park Trust in September during the National Heritage weekend.

Many relished the conducted tours through the Lathom Gardens and experienced the absorbing skills of the stonemason's art.

Stonemason, Ken Hughes who has masterminded the impressive restoration of the Lathom House, West Wing, never fails to impart his infectious enthusiasm.

His demonstrations and encouragement for others to have a go proved as popular as ever. We thank Ken for his contribution and also of course, Bill Kenyon and Pilkingtons for allowing access to the site.



Pic. Martin Brown



.....and their continuing help and crucial support is greatly appreciated by the Lathom Park Trust

Prize Band in Tune with 200 years of Lathom history

Great social event throws up fascinating links with artistic Wilbraham family

Lathom enjoying the Christmas Prize Band Concert



A festive spirit welcomed the Skelmersdale Prize Band at the Christmas concert organised by the Lathom Park Trust's social events group. Like many things the Trust has discovered in our short history, there's a surprise round every

corner....

..... and this turned out to be no exception.

During their brilliant performances, the band introduced a piece 'Meditation - Lathom Park Chapel'. Fascinated by this, we spoke with Peter Gore of the Skelmersdale Prize Band who filled us in with the details. Peter told us that this was from a work commissioned by Pilkingtons and first played by the band for their Prize Winning performance in the National Competition.

Titled 'Facets of Glass' by Gordon Langford, the work is in four movements, portraying the creation, function, wonders and future of glass.

'Meditation - Lathom Park Chapel' musically describes 'beholding the wonders of stained glass windows' in the Lathom Chapel - an experience shared by many of us. The beautiful East window was erected by the first Earl of Lathom, former Lord Chamberlain to Queen Victoria, in memory of his wife who was tragically killed in 1897. The smaller windows are to the design, in 1822 of the late Hon. M. C. Bootle-Wilbraham, elder daughter of the late Richard Bootle-Wilbraham, first Baron Skelmersdale. The subjects depicted are of particular interest and significance in that they are the armorial bearings of the Lathom family and their alliances.



FANTASTIC LATHOM WORLD PREMIERE

LATHOM THEATRE, CHALL LANE, LATHOM

A GREAT 1920's EXTRAVAGANZA

Experience the spirit and essence of the 'Twenties' with Ned, the 3rd Earl of Lathom and his theatrical and musical friends known as the 'Bright Young Things' of their day.

IVOR NOVELLO, NOEL COWARD, OLGA LYNN, GERTRUDE LAWRENCE, CLIFTON WEBB, GERALD GARDINER, MRS PATRICK CAMPBELL and many others who performed on this actual stage in this hall for the people of Lathom.

Opening Night
Friday 25th April 7.30pm

Matinee
Saturday 26th April 2.15pm

Final Night
Saturday 26th April 7.30pm

TICKETS £15 (£12 matinee) including refreshments

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Pre-show & Interval Refreshments

John Knowles's

'BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS'

Dress as you feel appropriate

MEMORIES OF A MASTER SADDLER

Romance of Last Century Meeting with Lathom Girl

In June 1917, the British Army had 460,000 horses, 423 officers and 20,560 men of other ranks in the Remount Service and they were all trained at one of four great remount depots in the UK. The Remount Depot at Lathom was one of those depots and brought thousands of soldiers and attached civilian personnel to enjoy the "pleasures" of Lathom Park. One of those "guests" was Maurice Edward Gloin, a master saddler and coach-harness maker of Scandinavian descent, whose family had settled in Liverpool.

Whilst on duty in Lathom, he met Margaret Hogarth, who lived with her 6 brothers and 3 sisters at The Claytons, an 18th century farmhouse, much altered but still standing SE of the Park, off Spa Lane.

The couple married on New Year's Day 1920 in Lathom Park Chapel and moved back to Liverpool to run the family saddlery (which had made a straight-jacket for Houdini and a show-working bridle for Buffalo Bill!)

Their only son, Gordon Edward Gloin still lives in Aigburth, Liverpool.

Even though Mr Gloin has not visited Lathom for over 70 years he still clearly remembers his mother's house and the surrounding countryside.

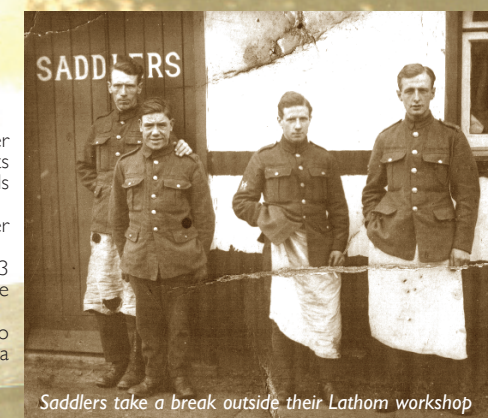
Mr Gloin recently contacted the Lathom Park Trust and was pleased to recount his knowledge of the Remount Depot and the Park, as told to him by his mother and father.

He also showed his unique collection of photographs and postcards of the Remount Depot and Lathom and kindly loaned them to the Trust for copying and reproduction. When John Hinchliffe visited him, it was with great excitement that he discovered other priceless treasures from Lathom, including a stool made in the workshop of the Army Service Corps given as a wedding present, an ornamental walking stick from the sale of Lathom House, a walking stick made from a parasol from Lathom House, a walking stick made from a tree from Lathom Park and his father's walking stick from the Depot.

Mr Gloin has written an extensive list of officers and staff stationed at the Depot and has thereby added greatly to the Trust's understanding of its operations. The Trust is very grateful to Mr Gloin for his information and in return, plans to take him back to Lathom on one fine day in the Spring to re-aquaint him with his maternal home.



Maurice Edward Gloin



Saddlers take a break outside their Lathom workshop

Background picture shows Remount Depot band at Lathom Park

JH

ARCHAEOLOGY & AVIATION

LATHOM'S DEBT TO THE WRIGHT BROTHERS



Trust member and newly qualified Pilot, Phil Beesley, plays an important role in the Trust's aerial photographic work



Lathom's hidden Walled Garden now the subject of keen interest

Observations from aircraft and aerial photography have helped the Archaeologist since pilots after the First World War realised that there was much more to be seen from an aircraft than just enemy positions as in wartime.

None of this would have been possible had not in December 1903, the Wright Brothers in Kitty Hawk in America managed for the first time, controlled powered flight in a heavier-than-air machine their OFlyerO. So this year we celebrate 100 years of that momentous event, which was quickly followed up by quite rapid development, spurred on by that First World War

The use of aerial observation and photography is playing an increasing role in archaeology as we see from the various programmes on T.V. Members of the Lathom Park Trust have also been airborne to view and photograph Lathom Park, Lathom House and many areas of West Lancashire.

Aerial Photography is in fact also forming part of the Trust's Heritage Initiative Report. One typical case has highlighted the hidden potential of Lathom's Walled Garden for which the Trust have now commissioned an initial geophysical survey.

We await the results with some excitement.

D.B.D '03

Lathom's World Heritage links with UNESCO centre in Paris

The Stanley Dock Tobacco Warehouse
- at the time the Largest Warehouse in the World



THE LARGEST WAREHOUSE IN THE WORLD
(THE STANLEY DOCK TOBACCO WAREHOUSE, LIVERPOOL).

Knights and Night-soil

As reported in the previous newsletter, Liverpool's historic port is being promoted by Liverpool City Council and English Heritage as a potential World Heritage Site. On 29th January 2003, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell) confirmed that Liverpool is the United Kingdom's sole nomination in 2003 for World Heritage Site status.

The nomination is based upon a Document, which highlights the outstanding universal value of Liverpool's place in World History, its tradition of innovation, its unique urban landscape and its cultural collections.

The Nomination Document includes a history and a description of the port, and of course Lathom's strong links with Liverpool are referred to, notably the regional political power held by the Stanley family and the importance of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal for transporting coal, corn and night soil (!).

Lathom Park in isolation may not qualify for World Heritage status, but its fame is now firmly registered - by association, in UNESCO'S World Heritage Centre in Paris.

Anyone wanting further information on Liverpool's World Heritage Site nomination should log on to www.liverpool.gov.uk or ring Lathom Park Trustee John Hinchliffe on 0151 2335367

Taste of the Grapes

Yet another successful Lathom Park Trust event, thanks to our hardworking Social Group and an abundance of wine tasting samples and anecdotes

