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.

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 geographical 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, and is only possible through the kind co-operation of the Beesley family.

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

NEW TRUSTEES JOIN BOARD OF LPT.

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.

Pictures show Ron Cowell with his on-site archaeological team and (insert) a typical example of a Roundhouse.
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 entertainments here involved the consumption of: one whole ox, a dozen calves, a score of sheep, 15 hogheads 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.

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. 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. 18 2003

FANTASTIC LATHOM WORLD PREMIERE

Great new Archive Discoveries

New Park in Lathom.

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PRIZE BAND IN TUNE WITH 200 YEARS OF LATHOM HISTORY

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It is amazing how more and more connections to Lathom House continue to come to light from nowhere, unearth fascinating artifacts and Lathom's hidden Walled Garden, now the subject of keen interest.

**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 World Heritage links with UNESCO centre in Paris

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.

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

**Knights and Night-soil**

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**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.

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 ÒFlyerÓ. So this year we celebrate 100 years of that momentous event, which was quickly followed 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 TV. 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