Birmingham and Warwickshire **Archaeological Society** Hello all, Welcome to the BWAS Spring Newsletter. Read on for:

BWAS

President's Report

• Lectures, Events & Excursions

Offers & Services for Members

• News from Related Organisations

Recent Archaeological Work

• Recruitment of New Trustees & Volunteers

To promote the study of archaeology and history and the preservation, investigation, excavation and restoration of local antiquities and buildings of historical interest for the public benefit.

This has been a busy period for your committee. We are pressing on with the move to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, as agreed by members at the AGM in December 2021. This involves updating our Constitution in line with current Charity Commission guidelines. We are also implementing the recommendations of the governance consultant funded by our 2020 Lottery grant for improving our Society's processes and procedures, again in line with current CC guidance. This has included introducing new ways of storing and managing our information, improving marketing and communications including social media, introducing new procedures for recruitment of trustees and volunteers, drawing up a new business plan and developing ideas for projects that fulfil our objects and grow and diversify our membership. We hope that one of these projects will be based at Weoley Castle.

I have been speaking to potential partners about forging links that will broaden BWAS's contacts and support new projects. These have included Birmingham City Council, the University of Birmingham, Birmingham Museums, Heritage and Culture Warwickshire and Dig Ventures. Dr John Hunt, Chair of CBA West Midlands, has organised two Zoom meetings for officers of the larger societies in the West Midlands that have been invaluable for putting faces to names and exchanging views and experiences. For the last nine months BWAS has been without a Secretary and Treasurer. In

order to maintain the momentum of the move to CIO status, the committee secured

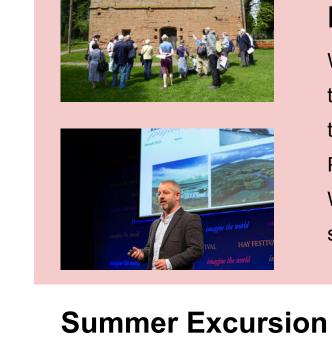
the services of consultant Alex Nicholson-Evans, who has done the heavy lifting on

implementing new ways of doing things. I should also like to thank our former Treasurer, Thu Hoang Nguyen, who despite completing her doctorate at Aston, obtaining an academic post at the University of Greenwich, moving her family there, and resigning, has continued to support BWAS as Treasurer in all but name! Alex and I have tried recruiting for new officers through a wide range of charity recruitment sites and networks without success. However, I am happy to report that two volunteers, Hannah Rose and Jake Streatfeild-James, have recently come forward for these positions. With the help of trustees, I have drawn up a draft lecture programme for next winter/spring, details of which are given below, and we also have a programme of walks and excursions for this summer. The Hon Editor continues to produce our Transactions with her customary efficiency, maintaining our proud record of

unbroken publication. Our future plans include more social events. Although attendance at lectures has been affected by the pandemic, our membership is growing, with a rise of nearly 10% over the last six months. Why not bring a friend to a lecture or excursion, and introduce them to BWAS? Thanks are due to our trustees, and to all our members, for their continuing support through these difficult times. Best wishes

Dr Ellen McAdam

EXCURSIONS



Please let us have your suggestions for these events. Why not volunteer, to help with the delivery of these services? Contact us on admin@bwas-online.co.uk

this to meet members' current needs.

LECTURES, EVENTS AND

We provide a range of services for members

throughout the year and we are working to develop

On Saturday June 11th we are venturing to the south-eastern extremity of our territory, to explore a complex historic landscape, with significant medieval, early modern, and 18th-century features. Join us to enjoy:

• Civil War exhibition at Radway Parish Church

Guided tour of village

A Walk Through Time

 Visit to site of Radway Old church and churchyard Walk though historic flower meadows of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to Westcote Deserted Medieval Village Refreshments at Westcote Manor Farm

• Experience Sanderson Miller's 18th – century designed landscape **Times:** 2pm - 4:30pm/5pm Meeting point: Saint Peters Church, Tysoe Road, Radway, CV35 0BS

Member Tickets: £10 + booking fee **Non-member Tickets:** £15 + booking fee **Click here for more information and to book tickets**



Our new venue for evening lectures in Birmingham is the University of Birmingham Guild of Students, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham

Getting There

B15 2TU.

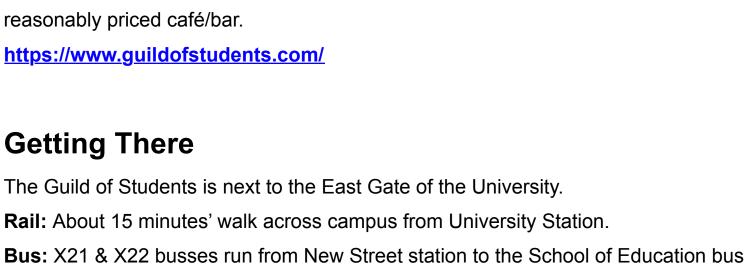


Photo: University of Birmingham Guild of Students

Photo of Weoley Castle: Birmingham Museums Trust

Venue: Guild of Students

6 December 2022 **AGM** followed by The 12th-century church and sculpture at Ansley, Warwickshire, and its context Speaker: John Hunt

The Birmingham and Black Country Pevsner

Speaker: Matthew Jones, Archaeology Warwickshire Venue: tbc

RECRUITMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES AND **VOLUNTEERS** The society is currently recruiting! We would be very happy to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with running the Society either as a trustee or as a

OFFERS & SERVICES FOR MEMBERS The Soho **NEW BOOK: Soho Manufactury,** Manufactory, Mint and Foundry, West Midlands **Mint & Foundry**

volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering – or you know someone who might

Find Out More

James Watt and William Murdoch pioneered the techniques of the Industrial Revolution. It has been said that the modern world was invented at Soho. His much-anticipated book was

George Demidowicz is well known for

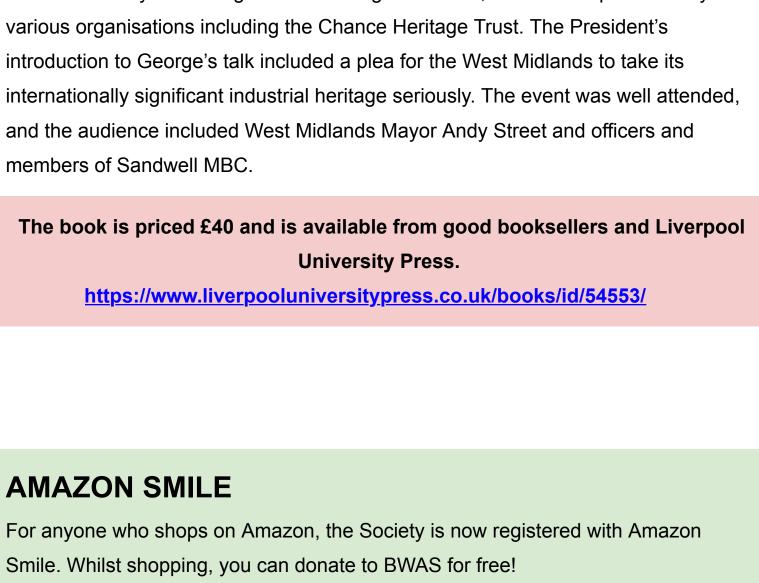
his comprehensive research into the

Soho sites where Matthew Boulton,

published on 1 February 2022 by

Press.

Historic England / Liverpool University



Where Boulton, Watt and

Murdoch Made History

George Demidowicz

Deer Boundary in Upper Keeper's Valley

Archaeological Work In Sutton Park in 2021

Photo: Mike Hodder

Small-scale excavations and palaeoenvironmental sampling were carried out in Sutton Park as part of a field training programme for students of the University of Birmingham's Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology. A square ditched enclosure near the centre of the medieval deer park is similar to lodges in the New Forest and elsewhere. It would have contained a dwelling for the keeper and his family. A keeper in Sutton Park is mentioned in 1480 and in the 16thcentury repairs to the lodge were planned but not undertaken. The location of the site is named Lodge Oak on a map of 1779, but no building is shown, and by this time there was another lodge on the north-east corner of the park. Excavations revealed two phases of construction of the ditch and its accompanying bank, followed by backfilling and levelling which included demolition debris from buildings within the enclosure. This deposit contained many broken clay roof tiles, mainly flat tiles with a nib attachment and some partially glazed ridge tiles. There were also a few fragments of plaster or mortar on the site, some possible daub and

a flat stone that may have been a postpad or part of a sill for a timber beam. Pottery

absence of pottery of later date, suggesting that the new lodge to the north-east was

built in the 17th century. The excavated lodge is close to a late medieval subdivision

of the deer park which enclosed woods and water, and may therefore have been

associated with managing and protecting woodland management as much as with

An enclosure defined by a bank and ditch was originally observed on lidar images

on what is now a golf course. It is next to the quarry pits of a Roman road and on

the same alignment as the road, which suggested that it might be a Roman signal

station or fortlet, similar to fortlets in Wales and at Linley in Shropshire. Excavation

unlike the asymmetric V-shape that is usually the case with Roman military ditches.

dump of subsoil dug out from the ditch. There was no evidence of a palisade on the

The bank had possible remains of stacked turves at its base but was otherwise a

bank, nor were there any features in the interior of the enclosure. The form of the

showed that the ditch was shallow and had a gently shelving U-shaped profile,

managing deer.

dating from the 15th to early 17th centuries was found, but there was a marked

ditch suggests that it is not a Roman military feature, and therefore could be of more recent date: an enclosure within the medieval deer park, like that in Holly Hurst to the east, possibly used by beaters during deer hunting; a hide for post-medieval hunting with guns; or constructed as part of military training, which has taken place in the Park since at least the late 19th century. Previous surveys have identified locations in the Park that contain organic sediments with palaeoenvironmental potential. Previous sampling and analysis of these has resulted in two pollen diagrams showing changing vegetation over time but neither of these is dated. In 2021, coring by auger of transects across Longmoor Valley in the south-west of the Park located three basins containing up to 1.3 m of

and analysis of pollen at intervals within the peat will show how the vegetation developed over time. Two additional radiocarbon dates will be obtained from each of the peat samples, one from the top and another from the middle or a point where the pollen shows a significant change in vegetation such as tree clearance, heathland development, or crops being grown. **DEVELOPING YOUR NEWSLETTER** We hope that you have enjoyed this issue and we encourage you to help us develop this member resource. Ideas currently being considered include news items from the Finds Liaison Officers

sharing information and we do not want to deter contributions. Jim Ranahan, Newsletter Editor admin@bwas-online.co.uk **NEWS FROM RELATED ORGANISATIONS Birmingham Museums Trust** Saturday 10 September - Guided walks of Medieval Yardley, including the church,

Tuesday 13 September (Part of Birmingham Heritage Week): start 10am, Town Gate, off Park Road. Including millpools and medieval fishponds, deer park boundaries, and a former racecourse. Saturday 8 October: start 10am Boldmere Gate, off Stonehouse Road. Including medieval deer park boundaries, Holly Hurst wood, and remains of a First World war

gardens https://maxstoke.com/ **Wall Roman Site** Saturday 22 October (Friends of Letocetum): guided walk of Wall beyond the baths and mansio, including the site of the Roman forts and the late Roman burgus.

Ventures, which works to increase public participation in archaeology and heritage. More info here: chanceht.org/Events

SAVE THE DATE

Birmingham Heritage Week 9 - 18 September 2022

Excursion.

Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society, c/o The Birmingham and Midland Institute,

The walks are organised by the Friends of Sutton Park Association. They are free and booking is not required, but please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear

because they include rough paths and there is no shelter en route.

army camp.

Maxstoke Castle Sunday 19 June 2022 - Open Day, your one chance in 2022 to visit the castle &

Booking essential: http://www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk/ or 01543 418464 **Chance Heritage Trust** 'Made in Smethwick' a new season of family-friendly events celebrates local local historic landmarks, photography lessons, craft workshops.

Find Out More Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Society. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Summer

> 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, West Midlands B3 3BS, UK <u>Unsubscribe</u> <u>Manage preferences</u> Send free email today

HubSpot

Lecture Programme 2022/23 This is currently being finalised, and final details will be circulated with the subscription reminders in June. **New Venue**

Members and guests are welcome –

Details will be sent out soon!

University of Birmingham

It is a friendly and well-appointed

https://www.guildofstudents.com/

venue, with a welcoming and

reasonably priced café/bar.

bring your own picnic and blankets etc.

The Guild of Students is next to the East Gate of the University. Rail: About 15 minutes' walk across campus from University Station. stop on Edgbaston Park Rd - less than 5 minutes from the Guild. **Car:** Parking is free on campus after 6pm. **Draft Lecture Programme 2022/23**

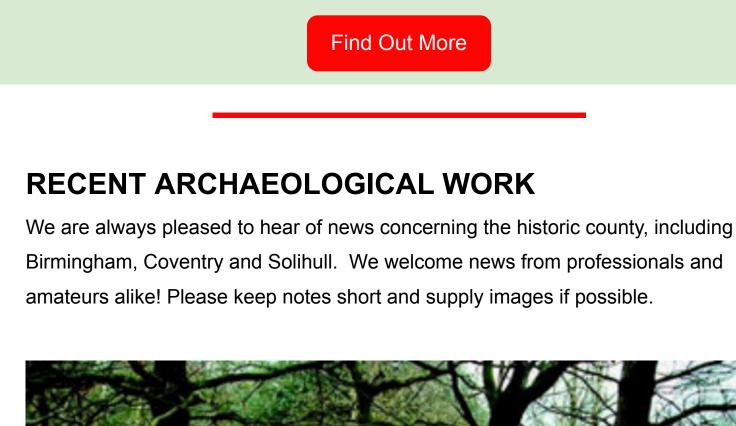
Venue: Guild of Students 10 January 2023 Lunchtime lecture in Birmingham **Speaker:** Andy Foster

Rethinking the bog bodies of later prehistoric Europe: evidence for trauma and physical injury in context **Speaker:** Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham **Venue:** Guild of Students

be keen to get involved – please contact us via our website.

Covid restrictions delayed the formal in-person book launch until 9th April 2022, but the wait was well worth it! We are grateful to the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham for hosting the launch, which was sponsored by various organisations including the Chance Heritage Trust. The President's introduction to George's talk included a plea for the West Midlands to take its and the audience included West Midlands Mayor Andy Street and officers and members of Sandwell MBC.

AMAZON SMILE



Dr Mike Hodder

peat in which there were wood, moss and sedge fragments. Near its base the peat contained *phragmites* (reeds) which would have grown in an open water fen. Core samples were taken, for pollen analysis and radiocarbon dating, from two locations in Longmoor Valley and one in Keepers Valley. The base of Core 1 (Upper Longmoor Valley) has been radiocarbon-dated to

between 1515 and 1426 BC (the middle Bronze Age), the base of Core 2 (Middle

Longmoor Valley) to between 3804BC and 3705 BC (the early Neolithic), and the

Mesolithic). These dates show when the peat started to develop in each location,

base of Core 3 (Keepers Valley) to between 5896BC and 5741 BC (the late

serving our area and an occasional series focusing on our institutional members, who help us meet our charitable object of promoting the study of archaeology and history. What are your ideas? Please let us have your suggestions and your contributions! We welcome news snippets, reviews of book and online resources, and of course, news from across Birmingham and Warwickshire. Generally, articles of 300 words or less are preferred, together with credited images. However, if you have something to share, please let us know, as the Society has range of platforms for

moated sites and ridge and furrow. Booking essential: https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/blakesley/whats-on **Sutton Park Archaeology Walks**

More info here: http://fospa.org.uk/

history this summer. Starting in May, the events explore and celebrate the richness of Smethwick's industrial heritage. There'll be something for all: guided walk, trips to #MadeInSmethwick is delivered by Chance Heritage Trust, in partnership with Dig

Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society

4 October 2022 Recent archaeological projects in Birmingham Speaker: Chris Patrick, Birmingham City Council 1 November 2022 HS2 excavations at Coleshill Manor Speaker: Samuel Fieldhouse, Wessex Archaeology **Venue:** Guild of Students

Venue: Birmingham Midland Institute 7 February 2023 **Lunchtime lecture** in Warwick Roman Warwick

7 March 2023