



Constantine of Carthage records samples

AVON LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

31 May 2019

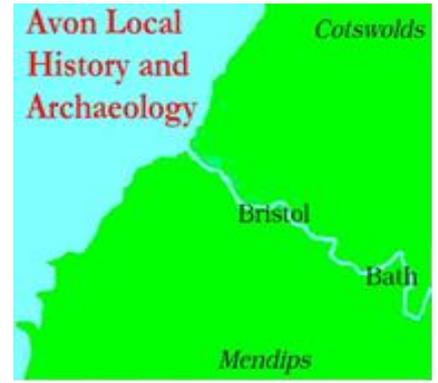
5 Parrys Grove

Bristol BS9 1TT

Tel, ans and fax 0117 968

4979

wm.evans@btopenworld.com



Website: www.alha.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AvonLocalHistoryandArchaeology>

CONTENTS

ALHA items

Walks Talks and Visits list – new edition

Subscriptions time

Facebook

Summer walks 2019 programme

Booklet - correction

Events and sources

Bristol central library Wednesday etc opening

Acton Court opening

Oral history training at Yate

Dig at Ashton Court

Bristol University and slavery

S Glos in WW1 project evaluation

Books noticed

Struggle and suffrage in Bristol

Cadburys

Conscientious objectors in WW1

Commentary and responses

Sackler - responses

Cost of running a horse

Pinch points

Evaluation

Can you help?

Community archaeology TV project

ALHA ITEMS

WALKS TALKS AND VISITS LIST

The spring 2019 edition of ALHA's *Walks, Talks and Visits* list, compiled by Sandy Tebbutt, is now back from the printers. Light green cover. A paper copy will be sent to every ALHA member group and society that has paid its 2018-2019 subscription, and over 40 have been posted. If your group has not yet paid its sub, could you please arrange to do so? If your group has paid its sub, but has not yet received its copy of the speakers list, please tell ALHA's treasurer.

Sandy is grateful for feedback and comment on speakers and walk leaders listed, and is always on the look-out for new names add to the list, so if you would like to recommend anyone: sandy.tebbutt@hotmail.com

ALHA SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019-2020

Many thanks to all those groups and individual members of ALHA who have paid their subscriptions, due 1 April 2019. Early payment helps ALHA's cashflow considerably. Subscription rates continue as before: for groups and societies, £5 for receipt by e-mail and £7 by post; for individuals, £3 by post and £5 by e-mail.

If you would like a bank standing order (saves time, saves postage, saves memory), do ask the treasurer for a form.

The cost of printing and posting newsletters on paper to groups and societies, plus the printing and posting of the *Walks, Talks and Visits* list, is now greater than the annual subscription, so the group and society subscription is particularly good value.

FACEBOOK FOR MEMBER GROUPS AND SOCIETIES

Isla Kouassi-Kan writes: Not all ALHA member societies have a Facebook page, whether that be due to personal preference, the lack of time or just an inability to do so.

ALHA's social media team has come up with the idea to offer our member societies who are not currently utilising the social media platform, to have a post put up on Facebook (by us) with the details of your society for free. There is no obligation to take up this offer of course but, if you do wish to then we would appreciate a 50-100 word write up about your society and perhaps a few historic photographs to go along with the text if you want to.

Please send the details of this to our email at: avonlocalhistoryandarchaeology@gmail.com

If you would rather not do that then we can also do that part for you and create an ad on your behalf.

The ALHA Facebook team post forthcoming events that they obtain from the ALHA website page <https://www.alha.org.uk/Events%20list%20by%20date.pdf>

Not all our member societies have the resources to submit their programmes to ALHA on an annual basis or may not wish to do so we can offer this as an alternative also.

ALHA SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2019



ORGANISED BY MIKE HOOPER. NO NEED TO PRE-BOOK BUT THERE WILL BE A £2 FEE PAYABLE ON THE DAY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE TELEPHONE **MIKE HOOPER** ON 0117 9775512 (Mobile: 07443 229499)

MONDAY 24 JUNE – SALTFORD BRASS MILL

Leader Patrick Beazley – and the mill's volunteer team

See how the team have put recent grants to use to make the mill a fabulous place to visit

Meet at 6:45pm for 7pm start
The Shallows car park BS31 3EG

MONDAY 15 JULY – OLD MARKET STREET, BRISTOL

Leader Mike Manson – Local historian and author

Walk Just outside the old castle walls: Old Market street was the original marketplace. A walk with a lot of history packed into a small area

Meet at 6:45pm for 7pm start
The Stag and Hounds pub BS2 0EJ

SUNDAY 11 AUGUST – THORNBURY (Cost £3)

Leader	Jane Marks of Thornbury & District Museum
Walk	A guided walk along the High Street. See how it compares to Old Market, Bristol
Meet at 1:45pm for 2pm start	Meet at the Museum in Chapel Street, between the Cossham Hall and the Wheatsheaf pub. BS35 2BJ

ALHA BOOKLET – CORRECTION

ALHA's booklet no.17, *Bristol politics in the age of Peel, 1832-1847* by John Stevens, has sold out, but he would like to make two factual corrections to the text published:

- a) on page 31, line 11: the duration of a Parliament at the time was seven years, not six;
- b) the voting figures in 1847 for Conservative Councillors and Aldermen: on page 33, lines 17-20, the sentence should be deleted and replaced by: "Of the 45 Conservative Councillors and Aldermen then sitting, 21 plumped for Miles and eleven for Fripp, with six splitting for Miles and Fripp, two splitting across party for Fripp and Berkeley and one for Miles and Berkeley. Four, including Haberfield, did not vote".

EVENTS AND SOURCES

BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY

Bristol City Council has announced that the central library, including the reference and local studies sections, will be open again on Wednesdays, and there are some other alterations. Full list of revised opening hours at https://www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries-archives/library-finder/-/journal_content/56/20195/LIBRARY-UPRN-000000199356/LIBRARY-DISPLAY

ACTON COURT, IRON ACTON

Acton Court gardens will be open under the National Gardens Scheme on **Sundays 2, 9 and 16 June 2019**, and there will be tours of the house and grounds under heritage open days on **Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September 2019**. More at <http://www.actoncourt.com/events#Acton-Court-Open-Days-2019>

GOLDNEY HOUSE, CLIFTON

University of Bristol offers historic garden tours to September 2019, bookable through the University's online shop at: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/gardens-events> . For scheduled specialist garden history tours the price £10 includes a copy of the University's *Historic Gardens* book. No concessions. No dogs (unless assistance dogs). Children must be supervised at all times.

The University also offers BESPOKE TOURS for groups, clubs or organisations wishing a private visit to one or more of the gardens from May to September. Tours will be led by a guide and each organiser will be contacted for booking requirements and arrangements. Charge £6.00 per person (minimum of 15 people).

‘These can include **Goldney Garden, Royal Fort Garden and Clifton Hill House**. Each garden has its own merits but are all within close proximity of the centre of Bristol. We will need a completed booking form to be able to process your request and will try to accommodate your requested dates as much as possible but some of the locations host events such as conferences and weddings and we will need to negotiate around these dates to ensure your visit is perfect!

‘On a number of occasions we have combined several tours, for example you may wish to visit Goldney Garden in the morning and the University Botanic Garden in the afternoon or perhaps Wills Memorial Building Tower! We can make recommendations.



- Tours are pre-bookable and ticket only events
- All tours last approximately 1-1.5 hours
- Numbers are limited to 20/25
- All tours are external to buildings
- £6.00 per person
- Please bring suitable clothing for wet weather and uneven surfaces

Download the [Historic Gardens Booking Form \(PDF, 1,176kB\)](#)’

Nicolette Smith, External Estates Department/Historic Gardens, University of Bristol, Waltham Cottage Yard, Hollybush Lane, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1JB
nicolette.smith@bristol.ac.uk 0117 4282409

ORAL HISTORY TRAINING OFFERED

Oral history training led by Paul Evans of Gloucestershire Archives on **Thursday 11 July 2019** at the **South Gloucestershire Council Offices, Badminton Road, Yate, BS37, 5AF**.
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oral-history-training-with-paul-evans-of-gloucestershire-archives-tickets-60123818961>

WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SOUTH LAWN AT ASHTON COURT ESTATE?

Anthony Roberts writes: Be an archaeologist for the day! This is a rare opportunity to actually have a go at archaeology on an iconic Bristol landmark, **Ashton Court**. Members of the public can pre-book an opportunity to participate in the dig and experience being an archaeologist for a day. This is a great opportunity to engage with the history of Ashton



Court and help to add more to the understanding of the long and varied history of this famous Bristol landmark.

On selected days from **23 June to 18 July 2019**, a community archaeological investigation will be conducted to investigate the results of a geophysical survey carried out in 2018. During last year’s dry summer parch marks appeared on the South Lawn at Ashton Court, hinting at a hidden history waiting to be

uncovered. A geophysical survey of the lawn identified possible archaeological remains that took the form of potential rooms of a building. An engraving, dated 1791, shows a wing of the mansion that no longer exists where the scorch marks appeared. This wing was removed during alterations to the Court, at the same time that the current double frontage of the building was constructed.

Some contemporary garden features may also be waiting to be uncovered.

A number of Bristol schools have been invited to participate in the excavation as part of Historic England's Heritage Schools programme. Students will learn about the rich heritage of the grand Ashton Court buildings and have the chance to experience hands-on excavation.

The excavation is being conducted by Archeoscan with the kind permission of Bristol City Council and supported by Artspace Lifespace and Historic England. These popular digging experiences cost £30pp per day. Anyone wishing to participate in the excavation should contact Archeoscan on archeoscan@hotmail.co.uk for more information or to book a place. Further details are on the Archeoscan website www.archeoscan.com. 07901 746140
Email: archeoscan@hotmail.co.uk

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY AND SLAVERY

Various newspapers have reported that **Bristol** University is to appoint a researcher to investigate the institution's links with slavery: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bristol-university-is-latest-to-delve-into-slavery-links-m2jw5q9p3>

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT

Jane Marley draws attention to an evaluation, by Lori Streich of consultants Rowan Associates, of the *South Gloucestershire in the First World War* project. The evaluation is titled, *From Sleepy Villages to Industrial Hubs: Engaging South Gloucestershire with the First World War Centenary* and is at <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries/ww1-museums-and-galleries/south-gloucestershire-and-the-first-world-war-2/>. Findings include:

A. Three travelling exhibitions displayed at 37 venues visited by 1,186,458 people; 4,000 postcards distributed to promote awareness of the project; 4,000 bookmarks with recommended reading lists distributed, promoting books on the First World War available in South Gloucestershire libraries; 729 books on the recommended reading lists loaned; 21,525 page views of the project's web pages; a micro-site created for South Gloucestershire's war memorials, which attracted 46,773 total page views; QR Codes on individual war memorials scanned at least 400 times to November 2018; a real-time "Twitter play" to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme produced, which over 91 days had 288 regular followers, produced 446 tweets and achieved over 150,000 impressions.

B. Schools and students: 3,914 pupils engaged through the delivery of workshops, training and access to learning materials about the First World War; training workshops in 21 schools (3 Secondary, 18 Primary); 50 teachers trained to use the learning resources produced by the project; by July 2018, approx. 3,000 children had engaged with the Poppy Gardens Project; 7 themed learning packs were produced and will be available after the end of the project as downloads or through South Gloucestershire's Library Service; the learning materials were used by a range of family and community groups including Scouts, Boys' Brigade, and South Gloucestershire Museums.

C. Museums in South Gloucestershire: Resources, such as the exhibition materials, were left with local museums, and a programme of volunteer training was developed: 10 volunteers

received training in different elements of the project, including using resources and researching war memorials; 32 volunteers attended social media training; 7 local museums reported that they had gained new volunteers through their involvement with the project. Volunteers contributed 316 days' time to the project, equating to £47,709 of value. More below under COMMENTARY.

BOOKS NOTICED

Christina Hollis, *Struggle and suffrage in Bristol: women's lives and the fight for equality*, Pen and Sword Books 2019, rrp £14.99, but £12 off the website + £4 p&p <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Struggle-and-Suffrage/c/325> . Keynsham author. Book is one of a series which includes Swindon, Plymouth, Eastbourne, Halifax etc.

Dominic Cadbury and Diane Wordsworth, *A history of Cadbury*, Pen and Sword Books 2019, rrp £12.99. <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/A-History-of-Cadbury-Paperback/p/16249> . Mostly photographs, and about Bourneville.

Refusing To Kill – Bristol's World War 1 Conscientious Objectors

Jeremy Clarke writes: This booklet, like the exhibition on which it is based, tells the story of the 580 men from the Bristol area who for moral, religious or political reasons refused to fight in World War 1, and the men & women in the local community who supported them. As well as individual stories, the booklet includes the names, addresses and occupations of all 580 conscientious objectors, and re-prints of rarely seen documents from local archives. Full details on <https://network23.org/realww1/2019/05/12/refusing-to-kill-booklet-published/> including a link to online purchase of the booklet. For more information email rememberingrealww1@gmail.com

Henleaze swimming club is planning to publish a history to mark its 200th anniversary. More details in the June newsletter.

COMMENTARY AND RESPONSES

Sackler

Jonathan Harlow writes: The piece on the subject of 'tainted' donations in the April Update fails to make one important distinction – time. As it suggested, it would be pointless now to repudiate the contributions of a long-dead slave-owner, when slavery itself is no longer an issue.

But the case is different with an ongoing scandal. Sackler is being sued for having marketed a dangerous drug without due care and with dire consequences. If these allegations are true then the family funds should be devoted to restitution as far as possible (and surely not protected by being in a trust.) Until the claims are sorted out, to accept funds from this source is in effect to endorse one side, and remove so much from what may be the legitimate claims of the injured.

Marjorie Jones writes: If the unspoken drift of the piece on whether museums should accept donations from people who have made money immorally was that that is all right because no-one is harmed, KI object. Museums, like everybody else, should express disapproval of bad conduct in whatever way they can. We express disapproval of wrong actions in lots of ways. Some involve legal sanctions: for murder and theft in the criminal law; for breaches of contract and negligence in the civil law. Parents and teachers control children's behaviour by expressing disapproval. We can protest and complain in demonstrations, public meetings, letters to newspapers, boycotts and so on. We need to say it loud and clear to these people that their conduct is not acceptable, and that they cannot buy honour, citizenship, respectability or whatever it is they are after by making donations to cultural (or

any other) causes. Museums should reject such donations, and should publicise their rejection as loudly as they can.

Tom Freeman writes: Local authority museums should not accept large private donations full stop. The government is trying to convert museums and art galleries from inclusive institutions funded by taxation and subject to democratic control into charitable organisations beholden to the selective preferences and whims of private donors. Public museums should not collude, whatever the source of the money.

Mike Perry writes: I would like to think that the motive of the donor ought to be taken into account in assessing whether a gift ought to be accepted. Gulbenkian made huge profits, partly from his business dealings but also from his private art collection. If he thought that he owed something back, and that one way of paying it back was to give works of art and money to public museums and galleries, that seems to me to be acceptable.

An anonymous responder writes: ... There is another legal analogy. Anyone who helps cover up a crime and thwarts detection is guilty of being an accessory after the fact. They are considered to be complicit in, and as having participated in, the original offence. Similarly, someone who buys or watches child pornography adopts and is complicit in the acts of child abuse depicted (and also supports those who organise, commit and profit from the acts of abuse). If I buy cheap food or clothing, I adopt and am complicit in the acts of those who impose the conditions in which the goods were produced. A football club that accepts sponsorship from a payday lender or betting company adopts and associates itself with what the sponsor did to get the money. Similarly, a museum that accepts money the donor has acquired improperly adopts and participates in whatever the donor did to amass the money.

The cost of running a horse

One of the topics not covered at ALHA's 2019 local history day (on the subject of getting about) was the cost of keeping a 19th century horse compared with a C21 car or van.

Calculating the cost of running a car these days is straightforward, so long as depreciation is not fudged. If you have a car, you know, or ought to know, how much you paid for it, what the cost of borrowing for it is, what its trade-in value might be, how much you spend on fuel, tax, MoT certificates, insurance, repairs, breakdown cover, servicing and so on. If you do not have a car, you can enter imaginary details in the costs calculator on the Money Advice Centre's website: <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/tools/car-costs-calculator>. Trade unions negotiate with employers mileage rates for workers who use their cars on their employer's business. HM Revenue and Customs publishes maximum rates of relief that can be claimed by those taxpayers entitled to do so:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rates-and-allowances-travel-mileage-and-fuel-allowances/travel-mileage-and-fuel-rates-and-allowances> .

Getting the information from about 150 years ago is not so simple. Most people could not afford a horse. Horse prices are sometimes mentioned in newspaper adverts, and in household and business accounts. Like cars, and some other things that might come to mind, they varied according to model, purpose, age and condition. A big expense was stabling:



residents' parking was not a local political issue, but you did not leave your nag out in the street all night. At John Wesley's New Room in **Bristol's Broadmead** we can still see the stable where the preacher's horse waited securely for the sermon to end, and many a rural Methodist chapel made similar provision. Horses had to be shod and cared for. Grooms and ostlers, many of whom were knowledgeable and skilful, did not come

cheap. Nor did fodder, the price of which rose in winter. You could hire a horse: Gloucestershire Archives holds the contents of Bishop Monk's desk, removed after his death, which include bundles of receipts for hire of horses as Monk rode around his diocese to visit his clergy. Piecing information together from sources like that, we can get some idea of costs.

Another method might be to look at stage coach fares and work back. Fares depended on whether the journey took 2 or 3 days, day or night, inside or outside, and so on. Newspaper adverts, from about 1735 until the railway put stage coaches out of business in the 1840s, suggest that the average fare to London from **Bath** (Bear Inn) or **Bristol** (White Lion or White Hart) was about 25 shillings, which according to the currency converter on the National Archives website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/#currency> was the equivalent of a skilled tradesman's pay for 8 days and would be about £72 in today's money. (And see Dr Jonathan Harlow's *What's that worth in real money?* in ALHA *Newsletter* 150 March-July 2017). The route varied according to season, the availability of turnpikes, coach proprietors' connections with inns (cross-selling is not a modern marketing invention) and so on, but to assume 100 miles from Bath to London and 115 from Bristol seems reasonable. So a rate of 2d to 2½d a mile seems a plausible guess. That would have to cover, as well as the proprietor's profit, the cost of the coach, its repair and maintenance, equipment such as harness, horses, advertising, fodder, grooming, shoeing, stabling, coachman and guard (highway robberies averaged one every two years on the Bath-London route). There was competition, so margins may have been tight, so the figures are likely to be reliable. It was in the coach proprietor's interests to look after his horses and feed them properly, but not to keep them once they were no longer up to the job or a drain on the bottom line. (Did the owner pay the knacker to take the carcass away or did the knacker pay the owner to do so?) Deduct the proprietor's profit and overheads like advertising and the cost of the guard, and you get a fair idea of the cost per mile of running an early Victorian horse and carriage.

Pinch points

The yellow signs have gone up. South Gloucestershire Council plans to widen the bridge that takes Gipsy Patch Lane under the railway near the Rolls Royce site at **Little Stoke**: <http://www.stokegiffordjournal.co.uk/major-projects/cribbs-patchway-metrobus-extension/>. The narrow bridge has long been a bottleneck. The widening is to reduce traffic queues and to accommodate a metro bus route.

Pinch points interest geographers and people concerned with international relations. A pinch point is a physical feature that concentrates or funnels traffic, whether of people or of goods. Some pinch points were formed naturally, eg the straits of Gibraltar and the Khyber pass. Others have been human-made, eg the Panama and Suez canals, and the queue for coffee at an ALHA local history day. Places become pinch points either because they are the only means of access to and from other places, or because they provide a short cut which saves time and money compared with other routes, or because traffic gets attracted through them.

Some locations become pinch points only when the gap they offer, once adequate for traffic, cannot cope with the volume. The bridge between **Patchway and Little Stoke** is an example of that: wide enough for the occasional farm cart or carriage in 1845, but not when thousands were employed at the **Patchway** factories. Similarly with the bridges over the Midland railway line at Thicket Road, **Hillfields** and Carsons Road, **Mangotsfield**, where



traffic is now controlled by lights. What causes traffic growth could be a rise in population or some economic change.

Pinch points are effective places to put customs points. Medieval city gates were used as customs points, though in **Bristol and Bath**, as elsewhere, collection soon moved to a central tolzey or customs house. In Paris and Rome huge depots were formed by traders stacking their goods outside the gates while they waited for customs clearance, and traded while they were waiting. They were the ancestors of modern markets at St Denys and Porta Portese. In England markets had different origins, though Bristol's **Old Market** (which from its name looks as if it was earlier than the one by Mary le Port) may have originated as a customs area outside the castle walls on the road from the forest of **Kingswood** and London. Turnpikes had to be gated and fenced in order to force pinch points at the gates, otherwise tolls would have been evaded.

Bridges are potential pinch points. In a city on a wide river, the more bridges that cross it the less likely they are to become pinch points, and vice versa. **Aust** ferry became a pinch point once traffic increased (Is that why **Henbury**'s Samuel Astry bought into it?). Hence the long road along the warth, **Aust**'s modest anticipation of modern use of the M2 and M20 every time there is a problem at Dover or Calais. Pinch points are avoided by providing alternative routes, which is why resilience is built into networks for transport, electricity, water, gas, oil and telecommunications. **Aust** ceased to be a pinch point once the Severn bridge opened. Two Severn bridges are more resilient than one.

Pinch points need not be physical. A monopoly is a sort of pinch point, as the pilots of **Pill** noticed and turned to their advantage. That is one of the arguments against privatisation of essential services like water: natural monopolies are not amenable to avoidance by promoting competition, because there is nowhere else for people to go: public control reduces the risk of consumers being price-gouged. Many people worry about the risks of communications media being controlled by a small number of foreign companies or individuals.

On the whole our area has had few pinch points. Something, perhaps, we should be thankful for.

Evaluation

The consultants' evaluation of the *South Gloucestershire in WWI* project (mentioned under EVENTS AND SOURCES above) is worth noting from several points of view. Some will be fascinated by how the English language is developing in the dialects of consultancy, local government, non-governmental organisations and the now specialist vocabulary of the heritage industry.

Others will question why professional evaluation (which costs money) is needed. Many of us dabble in, read, listen to or sleep through local history and archaeology just because we are interested, to satisfy curiosity, because we find them less irritating than television or professional sport, or because they are a harmless means of occupying time between retirement and death. We do not expect to evaluate or justify what we do, except in terms of personal satisfaction, though there are also strong arguments for recognising how information about the past feeds into education, mutual understanding, community cohesion, politics and general social well-being.

That is no answer to those who want to know why they should put their money, or other people's money for the allocation of which they are responsible, into local history projects or institutions. It is not unreasonable for donors to a charity to ask for evidence of how their gift has been spent. It is not unreasonable for taxpayers, local authorities or government departments to ask for evidence of how public money has been put to use. It is

not unreasonable for the Heritage Lottery Fund to ask to see what practical results its grants have produced.

We can get some idea of where money has gone from the accounts and annual reports of charities and public bodies. But they record inputs, not outputs, so they do not often tell us what the beneficiaries have received. For many years Bristol Polytechnic careers service measured its activity by how many careers guidance interviews its advisers gave to students; not until about 1990 did it try to find out how many students it had got into work within a year of leaving.

One criticism of evaluation is that it encourages box-ticking or, in the case of museums, libraries and other cultural operations, concentrates on footfall or bums on seats, which are easier to measure (the numbers, that is) than cultural or educational outcomes, some of which are bound to be subjective. Measurement is not the same as evaluation. But these simple measures can be useful proxy indicators. Joe Bloggs will get more benefit from a museum if he actually visits it, in much the same way as you increase your chances of winning a lottery prize if you buy a ticket. Obviously care needs to be taken in collecting data: in the 1970s a local traffic count produced surprising figures when members waiting for an adjacent youth club to open jumped up and down for half an hour on the rubber tubes across the road.

The evaluation of the *South Gloucestershire in WWI* project shows how a local history initiative can be imaginatively devised, planned managed and implemented. It shows the enormous interest people have in our past. It shows how local history can be used by teachers in schools. Over a million visits: our elected representatives, please take note.

CAN YOU HELP?

Community archaeology TV project

Nigel Hetherington writes: ‘We are working on a TV pilot for a UK broadcaster on archaeology and the local community. This is the alternative archaeology series that looks to uncover the amazing British history that is buried in the most ordinary of places.

Our brief

“Welcome to the history show that eschews stately homes and keeps clear of castles, instead looking for amazing archaeology in the most outwardly ordinary of locations. From digging down to Roman ruins along an average east London street, to uncovering Viking encampments along a long forgotten canal-side embankment. There is really no end to the British places we could stick a shovel in and pull out a fresh pile of history. We’ll begin each episode in a specific street, town or small geographic location that the history books tell us has a high probability of hiding amazing history under its earth. Whether it’s unearthing ancient Saxon burial grounds in a Cotswolds school carpark, or proving the existence of Moorish traders at the back of residential terraces in Mamucium (Manchester innit!). Each different dig will tell a new and eye-opening story about an individual British location and its remarkable (but hidden) heritage”

The stories we need from you

‘We are looking for astonishing Archaeology in the most ordinary of places, showcasing the history of archaeological research in Britain and the exceptional societies who help to uncover our past. In each episode and especially in this our pilot we need our locations to tell a unique story about Britain and its remarkable history. It’s looking for a quintessentially British town/street with a verified link to a historical story we can tell, it doesn’t have to be something brand new or astonishing (we aren’t expecting another king in the car-park, but that would be nice!) but we do need to have more to tell than just the excavation. Think Coast

meets Digging for Britain meets DIY SOS! We are looking for a unique tale that can be told alongside the dig in each episode! What will we discover in YOUR backyard, street or neighbourhood? Do you have a project that would work for us, then we need to hear from you! Please send details to casting@pastpreservers.com; Nigel Hetherington, Past Preservers, +20 1003461169 | +44 7526 179 821; nigel@pastpreservers.com; www.pastpreservers.com'