

MELLOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Registered Charity: 1081602
www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk

Boy, do we have a lot to talk about this time! We'll need to be brief to get everything said.

This is the first Newsletter since the official end of the 3-year grant period from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and one thing does need to be made clear: archaeology in Mellor goes on and the Mellor Archaeological Trust continues in its supporting role. Yes, the finances are not what they have been for the last 3 years, but that is far from meaning that everything comes to an end. Work goes on in this different environment and there are significant plans for the future.

Let's start however with the very important news, which will probably not actually be 'news' to a lot of our readers: Professor John Hearle was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List, 'For Services to Archaeology in Mellor'. What marvellous news. Doubtless everyone will want to join in congratulating him on such a richly-deserved honour. Congratulations John!

As many of you will have experienced for yourselves, the Celebration Conference on Saturday 16th January was a huge success. We were treated through the entire day to a most healthy mix of talks and presentations by leaders of the Project, by Project volunteers and by local and national experts from Academia and the Professions. Every person attending would name their own different highlight from the day, but the overall impression was simply one of success in almost every aspect in which the Mellor Heritage Project has been active.

Let's look to the future now:

An important date for your diary: Saturday, 10th April. Two events for which we are seeking an excellent turnout:

- 10.30 for the Reopening of the new Origins Gallery, outside Stockport Story Museum in the Market Place in Stockport; then followed by:
- 12.00 at the Old Vicarage for the official handing over of the Public Viewing Area to the people of Stockport.

Everybody welcome; do please come along and bring your friends too!!

Now to something which is still rather a Work-In-Progress, but anyone who has visited our website in recent weeks at www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk cannot fail to have recognised that it does indeed have a fresh new look about it. It's too soon to say that the job in hand is finished, but regular visits to glance through the content and the greater ease of navigation around the site are to be highly recommended. We'll tell you more just as soon as possible, but for now it suffices for us to say 'Well done, Pam, and keep up the good work!' See below for assistance Pam is seeking from us all.

As already mentioned, work continues in our area and a small group of dig volunteers has already been asked to set up a 'volunteer group' for people who wish to continue with digs in Mellor. Further details will be sent out in the near future.

There is quite a bit more going on in the background, about which we hope to be able to tell you quite soon. Keep watching for more Newsletters and do keep coming back to the website. If you want to continue to support the ongoing work in a practical way and you are not already a paid-up member of the Friends of Mellor Archaeological Trust, then why not join up? Go to <http://www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk/admin/mellorarchtrust.htm> for more details and get joining!

Now to Pam's information and request:

"The website has been reconstructed on www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk although the old mellor heritage address also points to it, so it will still be easy to find. In order to refine and improve it and push it up the search engine ratings, I would like to ask for help from the good people on our Mellor News list in two ways:

1) If anyone spots any errors, typos or problems, please report them to me at pam@smithfold.com

2) If a few people would type www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk directly into the search box on Google or any other search engine, then select the right link to the www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk site (rather than mellor heritage) it will help to move the new pages up the ratings. If you are searching for a definite item (eg Amber beads) and google offers you a page with the suffix .php could you please ignore that, as it is the old site, the new pages all end in .htm. If you can't find what you want in the listings, it would be most helpful if you could just select the home page again and navigate from there."

So, 'good people on the Mellor News list', will you be kind to Pam and help her, please?
Thanks very much, we know we can count on you!

We'll be back with more news just as soon as possible.