

# **FRIENDS OF MELLOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017**



**Mellor Archaeological Trust continues to be busy as we move into the last six months of our “Revealing Oldknow’s Legacy”, Heritage Lottery Funded, project. The next important stages are the landscaping at Mellor Mill and the conservation and consolidation of the remains. This will be followed by the erection of interpretation boards and displays. Access to the digital information is via the project website: <http://oldknows.com/> where it is possible to book onto**

**events and download the “Oldknow’s Audio Tour and Quest” App from the App Store and Google Play. The App includes some impressive Augmented Reality images, Virtual Reality images and Audio clips from experts.**

**Why not come down and visit us at Mellor Mill? We are there each Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 4pm and love to receive visitors. There is so much more to see now that the dig has been painstakingly cleaned up by our ‘dig’ volunteers. The huge size of the mill is now clear to see as you take in the view down the length of the drive shaft run stretching from the Steam Engine House to the Wellington wheel pit. It is now difficult to recall how the site looked some six years ago as we took on the task of clearing the Wellington wheel pit.**

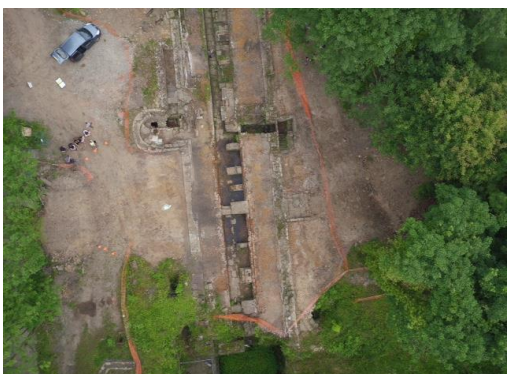


**This is how we started. A few despondent people staring in dismay into the Wellington wheel pit in 2011.**

**Now we have views such as this:**



**and this:**



**It is a real credit to the dedicated team who have toiled year round, in all weathers, to achieve this. We also mustn't forget the sterling work that our volunteer guides do at weekends. Their efforts take the pressure off the diggers who are able to carry on with their work knowing that visitors are being given a quality tour.**

**We recently welcomed 12 students from Marple Sixth Form College for a week of work experience. The weather was kind and we have received messages of thanks for an enjoyable introduction to the 'big' world outside academic study. We have also delivered a number of illustrated talks, walks and presentations to community groups both locally and across Cheshire as far as the Welsh borders.**

**It never ceases to amaze me that almost week after week new enigmas are presented to us and how that always sparks plenty of discussion and postulating of theories amongst experts and others. It has been a real journey of discovery and we haven't finished yet!**

**For attendance at shows we have purchased a high quality 3m x 3m gazebo emblazoned with the Trust logo and website.**



**I would like to thank all our Trustees for their support throughout the past year and for the 'back office' work they carry out. Without that support none of the more glamorous activities would happen. THANK YOU.**

**As all that goes on we are also just entering Year 2 of the European Funded *STORM (Safeguarding Cultural Heritage through Technical and Organisational Resources Management)* project. The UK project team has started to collect historical and current weather data that will inform predictions of weather patterns. The major risks, through climate change, to the cultural**

**heritage on the Mellor sites of Mellor Hill Top, Shaw Cairn and Mellor Mill have been identified and work on mitigation strategies begun. There is strong collaboration with the other European sites of Ephesus in Turkey, Rethymno in Crete, Troia in Portugal and Diocletian Baths in Italy.**

## **Fact and Fun Day September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Roman Lakes.**

**As well as having a great family day out you will be able to learn more about both projects at our Annual Fact and Fun Day, held in partnership with Friends of our Valley, at Roman Lakes Leisure Centre, Lakes Road, Marple SK6 7HB. This year's event will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Watch out for details on posters, flyers, Outlook (the Mellor Parish Magazine) and also on our website: <http://MATrust.org.uk/> Thank you for your ongoing support of the Trust and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.**

**Best wishes  
Bob Humphrey-Taylor**