

LIGHT UP HESWALL

Many of you will have seen during the past week the Light Up Heswall Committee (part of the HDBA) have had a sample light fixture made – this is what the committee intends to create for Christmas 2019. In an effort to provide a much-needed upgrade to the programme we intend to replace all 55 frames in the network; in doing so we are aiming to create a uniform and festive look to Heswall's streets this year. To achieve this we need as much help as we can get, volunteers and fundraisers are needed or this target cannot be achieved.

The committee needs to raise over £25,000 to fund the installation and creation of new light fixtures along with all the other costs that are involved in running the scheme annually. In past years the scheme has been funded by local businesses and members of the HDBA, as a result of this, raising the funds that are necessary to run and upgrade the network are not possible in these difficult economic times.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Light Up Heswall campaign committee or if you would like to donate towards the scheme please contact us on either hello@visitheswall.co.uk or our social media pages or call George on 0151 342 1769.



The Boat Beneath the Car Park



The Railway Inn was built in 1938 on a previously undeveloped site which adjoined the original Victorian pub of the same name. During the construction, workmen uncovered part of what was described by them as a large buried “Viking boat” at a depth of about 8 to 12 feet. No further action was taken to investigate the artefact and it was reburied. A written eyewitness account from one of the workmen (now deceased) who made the discovery included a simple drawing of the object and its location. The artefact was described by the eyewitness as a clinker-built Viking boat and was found in an upright position and encased in a layer of blue clay. With the agreement of the pub owners, Greene King, a non-intrusive ground penetrating radar survey has recently been carried out. This GPR survey identified a “boat shaped object anomaly” at the precise location and depth identified in the 1938 eyewitness account.

A project ‘**The Boat Beneath the Car Park**’ has been set up to try to obtain the resources needed to investigate the artefact. It is not intended that the artefact will be removed as part of this project but will only try to identify what the object is. It is being supported by Wirral Archaeology which is leading on the organisation, delivery, and preparation of a funding bid. The project group includes Professor Stephen Harding of Nottingham University and Dr Rob Philpott the former Curator of Archaeology at Liverpool Museum. The group has already obtained the written approval and practical support of Greene King who has agreed to lead on preparing a comprehensive building works specification for the complex

excavation. The project is also enthusiastically supported by the licensee and staff, and local people. The BBC has already recorded the GPR survey carried out at the pub and intends to record the rest of the project for a possible programme.

To be clear: the project group is making no claim that the artefact found in 1938 is Viking in origin, but at the very least it is probably old. However, the Meols area has historically strong Viking connections from 902 AD onwards when a Viking enclave was created.

The project group submitted a preliminary application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and this has been accepted for development. The funding bid is actively being created now. It is a complex process because of the nature of the project. There is no deadline for submitting a bid to NLHF. There is no guarantee that the bid will be successful. In order to improve its chances of success, the group also needs to obtain written support letters from the local community and relevant local/national organisations. Can you help by providing a support letter for this project?

We need to build in measurable long-term benefits such as education, employment, enterprise, community involvement. If you are interested or can help, we want to discuss this. You can either give your support in an email, or if you represent a local or community organisation, a copy of an example draft letter supporting this project will be sent to you. If you are a member of any local or national organisation and you would like to back this project, it would be great if you could return the letter on headed notepaper.

All organisations providing their support will be fully briefed on the findings of this investigation. If we can successfully deliver this project, a full report on the findings will be published. The Project Group will provide public briefings and further written and online information about the project, during its delivery and afterwards. Details about the project will be posted soon on our new website, and our social media sites are already active. See @Wirral_Archaeol on Twitter, or Wirral Archaeology on Facebook.

We ask you to email your support to: wirralarchaeology@gmail.com. Please quote the project title. This email address can also be used if you require further information.

The Project Group acknowledges the direct support and assistance of Greene King PLC, without their help this project would not be viable.

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