

The projected footprint of the Roman fort and the courses of the Roman roads, with the location of the previous evaluation trenches excavated in 2013

https://tinvurl.com/CGRomanDig2013



Picture of the hypocaust system associated with the mansio/ bath house excavated on Parker's Piece c 1924

To contact the Residents' Association please see the website www.littlechester.org.uk

Little Chester Newsletter August 2025

Picnic on the Green – after heavy rain the night before and showers on the morning of the Picnic, we had to decide whether to take a chance on the weather improving or move the event to the Community Centre. Fortunately, the



right decision was made as by mid-morning the rain had stopped and almost 300 people congregated on the Green for one of our best Picnics yet!

Local Vocals choir and Cover Story – both 'newbies' and Angelika, who stepped in at the last minute, were all brilliant and the audience were fascinated by the fire eating and other tricks performed by Mary Good, the children's entertainer! Both adults and kids had a great time with the tug of war 'competitions' and, with the glitter tattoos, ice creams and raffle, there was really something for everyone to enjoy!

A BIG thanks to all the local businesses and residents who kindly donated raffle prizes, including Dorothy Waring, and to Sunbelt for loan of the generator. We would also like to thank J D and the Parrots for the loan of their sound system. They were supposed to be playing but had to cancel at fairly short notice (hence Angelika) due to the drummer nearly becoming a father on the day!

Thank you to everyone who lent a much needed hand to set up and pack away or helped in any way on the day including (in no particular order) Matt, Chris, Grant, Jackie, Marie, John, Julie and particularly Bruce who kept the whole event running smoothly!! There were others but my memory fails me! Thank you, without your help it just wouldn't happen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: our 'first quiz with a difference', a MUSIC QUIZ, with local DJ John Lock setting the questions, is on Friday 26th September at Chester Green Community Centre. Admission is just £3 per person with no more than 5 people in a team (come with a team or join up to form a team) - each member of the winning team will receive a prize! Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start so come early to get a table, drinks from the bar and test your music knowledge!

On **Saturday 4th October** we have another of our popular '**MUSIC NIGHTS**' at the Centre – full details to follow next month.

Apologies for the 'C' word – our Christmas Market will be on Saturday 22nd November!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chestergreenents

Email: chestergreenents@gmail.com

CHESTER GREEN COMMUNITY GROUP

We were very sad to learn of the passing of a very special local resident, Dorothy Waring, early in July. She was a very kind lady who was devoted to all her family and loved Chester Green, where she had lived for many years.

Her family were involved in Community Group events as far back as the carnivals we had in the 1980's and Dorothy particularly supported the Picnic on the Green, always

attending with her family and donating a big bag of prizes for the raffle. Indeed, her grandson explained that, although Dorothy was receiving 'end of life care', she still wanted her usual bag of prizes to be delivered!

Her support over the years was very much appreciated – she will be missed by many people.

Looking for a venue for a party, a family celebration or a work event? Your local Community Centre is available to hire most weekends and on occasional 'one off' dates. The option to have the bar open is subject to event numbers and staff availability so to make an initial enquiry please email chestergreencommuni-tygroup@hotmail.com or call 07527 603057

The Centre is open throughout the week with various groups and activities taking place – see our website for the current timetable and group contact details. Our website: https://chestergreencommunitygroup.yolasite.com has a selection of photos of the interior and exterior of the Centre plus details of our regular group activities.

Church Clock Appeal

As many of you have noticed the Church clock has stopped chiming. The motor that drives the chiming mechanism is worn out and needs reburshing at a cost of approx £1800. We (the Church Council) are applying for funding towards the cost of the refurbishment but we have to make up the shortfall.

Would anyone be able to make a cash donation towards the cost, no matter how small every donation will help and we will be extremely grateful. If anyone can help please push the cash in an envelope through 102 Chester Green Road and I will arrange to pay it into the Church bank. Many thanks, Marie (C C member)



CHESTER GREEN BOOK EXCHANGE



just a reminder that our FREE book exchange/library is open on the 1st Saturday of the month at the Community Room on Old Chester Road (opposite the end of Marcus Street) from 10 – 11 am. Pop in, bring any books you've read, take new supplies with you and have a cuppa and a friendly chat while you're there.

We Dig Deventio - University of York Archeology in Chester Green

Come and explore the Roman history beneath your feet in Derby! Just outside the city centre is Little Chester, once the site of a Roman town called Derventio. We're returning to this amazing place to discover more about how people lived nearly 2,000 years ago.

What is Derventio?

Derventio started as a Roman fort, developing into a Roman town next to the River Derwent, in what is now the north-east part of Derby. It was about one kilometre from where the city centre is today.

Over time, archaeologists have found many exciting remains from the Roman period nearby. These include parts of the old Roman town, an underfloor heating system called a hypocaust at Parker's Piece, and even signs of Roman industry and burials near Derby Racecourse. There is also a Roman road called Ryknield Street that runs through Darley Playing Fields, showing that this was once a busy area.

Across the river is Strutt's Park, where an earlier fort stood between AD 49 and 80. Later, the Romans built Derventio and surrounded it with an earthwork enclosure, then added a stone wall. The site grew and changed over the next few hundred years.

What Have We Already Found?

In 2013 and 2014, archaeologists dug small test trenches near the town. They found a well-built Roman road just below the surface of the field. On either side of the road were remains of buildings and workshops. Pieces of iron working equipment and grindstones showed that people here were busy making things and working with metal.

Some of the buildings had stone walls and even metalled floors. Rubble from collapsed walls still lay scattered across the area. There were also signs of farming, like small ditches that might have marked out fields. All of this shows that a lively Roman settlement once stood there.

What's the Plan Now?

We're returning to this area to learn more – especially about the civilian town, or vicus, that initially grew up alongside the soldiers' fort. This new excavation focuses on land just east of the fort and walled town, close to Ryknield Street.

Working with Derby City Museums, we hope to discover who lived here, what they did for work, and how the town developed over time. Each new find helps us better understand everyday life in Roman Derby.

How Can You Take Part?

Take part in a 'training excavation' for local students and members of the public. For details on how to book, visit:

https://community.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/training-digs/derventio-training-dig/