

## North Staffs Branch of the CA - Report for the Year 2022/21

This has proved again to be a very unusual year, with no physical meetings possible, despite our hopes a year ago that these would resume in early 2021. On the other hand, Zoom meetings and our YouTube channel have allowed a wider attendance at our events than normal, being joined by viewers in Sheffield & Lancashire for instance, such has been the effect of Covid on the Branch. Sadly of course other regulars have not been able to join us at all. Our financial position actually improved during the year, returning to the sort of balance in the general fund that we felt appropriate until the losses we incurred a couple of years ago. There were almost no meeting expenses, and we were grateful to the national CA for helping us by meeting the costs of our web site this year as part of their Covid response. We have again maintained our membership numbers, with about 58 paid up members. We were fortunate in continuing to attract engaging and interesting speakers.

In the Autumn we opened in late October with the lecture postponed from March, by Tom Phillips (Manchester), on *Myth in Art* (You Tube so far 97 views). In mid-November we had a reading in translation of Terence's *Phormio*. We resumed in February with a talk by Christian Laes (Manchester) on *Children in the Roman Empire* (again 97 You Tube views to date). The programme was originally back loaded to try and facilitate meeting in person by this date. In early March we had a reading of Euripides' *Iphigenia in Aulis* as a lead in to Lynn Fotheringham (Nottingham)'s lecture at the end of the month on *Greek Tragedy on Screen* featuring productions of the play. This was the Hellenic Society Joint Meeting.



Finally on 11<sup>th</sup> May we had a Joint Meeting with both the Potteries Theological & Roman Societies, supported also by our Horton Fund, when Mark Humphries (Swansea) spoke on the 1691<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Constantinople about *Constantine, Constantinople & Christianity*. (already a further 66 You Tube views.) Our You Tube figures perhaps suggest that the non-specialist audience may have a preference for our non-literary offerings.

Our annual trip, in May, was to have been the postponed one to Aldborough Roman Town, York and Towton, but in line with lockdown easing could not be offered at that time. Consultation with members about a possible late July date concluded that, with family commitments for many once these were allowed, the preferred option was to leave any trip until May 2022. The Latin and Greek reading groups have not met in the past year, as members of the reading groups opted not to try and hold Zoom meetings. Nigel Coulton has asked when they would like to resume and we await news of whether this will take place once they can again meet in private houses. In April the Secretary was invited to join a Panel of Branch officers for the National CA Conference online, convened by Branches Officer Katrina Kelly, which seemed to go down well with the audience – & we gained a distant Facebook Group member as a result!

# Events 2021/2022

*NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ANCIENT LANGUAGE IS REQUIRED TO ENJOY AND TAKE PART IN OUR EVENTS,  
OTHER THAN READING GROUPS*

**ALL LECTURES THIS YEAR WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR YOU TUBE CHANNEL  
& AVAILABLE LATER AS RECORDINGS**

**LECTURE: Professor Alison Sharrock (University of Manchester)  
'OVID THE PROTOFEMINIST'  
7.30 p.m., Thursday 21 October 2021,  
University Common Room, Keele Hall, University of Keele, ST5 5BG**

**READING: (in English translation) from Homer  
Texts will be available, & details will be advised near the date  
7.30 p.m., Tuesday 16 November 2021,  
University Common Room, Keele Hall, University of Keele, ST5 5BG**

**LECTURE: Dr Katherine Backler (All Souls College, University of Oxford)  
'HOMER ON BEING HUMAN'  
2.00 p.m., Tuesday 30 November 2021,  
Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College, Leek Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4 2RU  
*Joint meeting with the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies***

**LECTURE: Dr Hannah Cornwell (University of Birmingham)  
'ROMAN PEACE'  
7.30 p.m., Tuesday 15 March 2022,  
University Common Room, Keele Hall, University of Keele, ST5 5BG  
*Joint meeting with the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies***

**READING: (in English translation) from Cicero's *Verres*  
Texts will be available, & details will be advised near the date  
7.30 p.m., Thursday 24 March 2022,  
University Common Room, Keele Hall, University of Keele, ST5 5BG**

**LECTURE: Dr Katherine Clarke (St Hilda's College, University of Oxford)  
'CICERO'S PROSECUTION OF VERRERES'  
7.30 p.m., Thursday 31 March 2022,  
This Lecture will be Live Streamed on Zoom only - *live link to be provided.***

**LECTURE: Professor Joyce Tyldesley (University of Manchester)  
'CLEOPATRA, THE WOMAN BEHIND THE MYTH'  
7.30 p.m., Thursday 12 May 2022.  
University Common Room, Keele Hall, University of Keele, ST5 5BG**

**ANNUAL COACH TRIP, Saturday 28 May 2022, 8.00 a.m. from Keele:  
York & Aldborough Roman Town  
led by Dr Andy Fear. Booking details to follow in New Year and on web site.  
There is a charge for this event, payable with bookings.**

**All welcome - all the above events, other than the trip, are free of charge**