

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... A COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST!

July 11, 2014 rowes Community Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2014 archaeologist, Archaeology, Ceramics, community, Heritage, industrial, Liverpool, Merseyside, Museum of Liverpool

My name is Sam Rowe and I've been an archaeologist since graduating in 2009. I am currently the Community Archaeologist at the Museum of Liverpool where I have worked for 3 years.

Being a Community Archaeologist means doing a whole host of different jobs in one go. One day I be working with volunteers on an excavation or in the museum on a handling session, and the next I will be writing project reports and the more tedious tasks (like finances!) No day is ever the same which makes it such an exciting job! The best part of the job is working with a range of different people and bringing people closer to the archaeology of their local area.

For the last three weeks I've been managing a community excavation in Rainford in St Helens, Merseyside, as part of the 'Rainford's Roots community archaeology project' (www.rainfordsroots.com). We have been excavating the site of an industrial clay tobacco pipe workshop on a site now occupied by Rainford library.

This season's dig has been hugely successful with lots of volunteers getting their hands dirty and learning new skills. We've had people excavating, recording, taking survey measurements, and washing finds, and a whole host of visitors have been to take a look at the site. We've also installed a small case of objects inside the library to display objects found during our excavations.

We uncovered a whole host of objects associated with previous activity on the site including clay tobacco pipes, kiln waste from the production process, industrial waste (slag), animal bones, glass and a whole range of pottery. Industrial archaeology isn't always the most exciting project in terms of finds (you won't be finding neolithic flints or Roman coins!), but there is always something to find and is a fantastic introduction to practical archaeology. It's a great way to get out of doors, meeting new people, and learning about local heritage.

Today I am writing a presentation on the project and getting prepared to host a tour of a new display case in the Museum of Liverpool which exhibits a huge collection of post medieval ceramics discovered during the Rainford's Roots project over the last two years.

You can follow the project on twitter [@rainfordsroots](https://twitter.com/rainfordsroots) and facebook.

You can find out more about community archaeology at the Museum of Liverpool on their [website](#):



Volunteers excavating and recording the site at Rainford library

