



New series 7.30 Sunday April 29

**NEWS RELEASE**

**April 12  
Immediate**

**Why were the druids stamped out by the Romans?  
What is the significance of the Viking treasure found in a Bidston garden?  
What rarity lies beneath a pub car park in Wirral?**

A new series of Lost Treasures reveals new evidence of the power of the Romans in Chester and the further evidence of Viking settlements in Wirral

It has long been known that there was a Norse settlement on Bidston Hill but the team discover an important “lost treasure” from the Viking era in one of the village gardens.

Meols is also receiving attention with a discovery which could, if verified, rock the world of archaeology but will need a substantial amount of funding to do so.

Chester’s rich Roman heritage lends itself to a new angle on how the Romans stamped on the druids and pushed their religious practices underground. The search for the oppressed druids extends to Wrexham and also Hexham, the location of Hadrian’s Wall.

The series presented by adventure archaeologist Mark Olly who is a lecturer at West Cheshire College and encourages ordinary people to help piece together the past.

What lies beneath the shores of Meols is still a subject of some debate but it is of potentially high archaeological interest if ever it was excavated. The programme reveals the nature of the object and its significance together with how much it would cost to excavate and preserve. In the opening episode covering the Vikings, a man in Bidston discovers a grave in his garden.

The series shows that our understanding of the past is on our own hands if people know where to look for it.

Programme producer Phil Hirst said: We often visit a location and our filming schedule is altered as new lost treasures are discovered on arrival. It's something that would do well on the whole ITV network. Adventure archaeology is all about people discovering their own treasures responsibly. It never ceases to amaze us what local people have discovered for themselves."

The news series on ITV Granada starts on Sunday April 29 at 7.30 p.m. and runs for eight weeks [www.lost-treasures.co.uk](http://www.lost-treasures.co.uk)

ENDS

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