



NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate

Lancashire's Lost Treasures Revealed on TV Show

Two of the most mysterious cultures, The Druids and Witches will be revealed in forthcoming episodes of the second series of *Lost Treasures* this Sunday and next.

Presenter, Mark Olly tells the story of how Druid rites were sent 'underground' after the Roman occupation of England and Wales. Archaeological evidence of this oppression stretches from the Roman town of Hexham in Northumberland, **Ribchester** in Lancashire, Chester and Anglesey.

In the eight part series, Mark Olly looks at archaeological finds in the region, some of which were unearthed by local people, to help piece together the past.

In the following episode (on Sunday May 27), the programme investigates the truth behind the sorcery and myth of the ten **Pendle witches** who were hanged for their 'crimes' in 1612 at Lancaster castle. Much of the drama was played in neighbouring villages as several dysfunctional families fell out and dabbled in witchcraft with dire consequences. Later that century Mathew Hopkins carried on with the hunt for scapegoats during the Civil War.

In a separate quest a lost treasure at **Towenley Hall** in Burnley, the secrets of a detached skull are revealed.

Spokesman for Lost Treasures Keith Thompson who studied history at **The University of Central Lancashire** in the mid 80's said: " Similar to our first series, Lancashire has proved to be a haven for lost archaeology. Our intention is to reveal lesser-known treasures in the region and to encourage

people to search for their own lost treasures responsibly and safely. History is all around us and beneath our feet if we know where to look.”

Mr Thompson believes that the success of the series will lead to greater exposure for the region : “
Programmes like *Lost Treasures* can have an added effect of stimulating tourism in the area. We have already sold the first series to the History Channel which broadcasts across the world. So we are helping to put Lancashire’s rich heritage on the map.”

The programmes will be broadcast on ITV at 6.05 on consecutive Sundays www.lost-treasures.co.uk

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For further information contact Keith Thompson 0789 266 2634 or 0151 677 9790