

# Medicine & Health Care in Roman Britain

Dr Nick Summerton

Wednesday, 19th October, 2022. Senhouse Roman Museum, Maryport

9.30am – 5.00pm

**Tickets: £25 can be booked by contacting the museum - 01900 816168**

Finding ways to cope with illnesses and injuries have been constant concerns throughout all human history. Written records together with archaeological finds from sites such as Alauna (Maryport) have painted a vivid picture of the medical care provided to both the military and the civilian inhabitants of Roman Britain.

But, by rigidly adopting a 21<sup>st</sup> Century view, it is all-too-easy to dismiss or denigrate aspects of ancient medicine and yet to overplay others significantly.

- Did any of the medical or surgical treatments being offered by the Greco-Roman healers work?
- Should we dismiss dream therapy or pilgrimages to healing sites - such as Bath or Coventina`s Well - as gimmicks?
- In the Roman world what was the balance between prevention, treatment and hospital care?
- Are aqueducts, drains and bathhouses really a reflection of the Roman concern for the public health?
- Can modern doctors learn anything from their Roman forbears about looking, listening and speaking with patients?

These questions – and more besides – will be explored using practical sessions, interactive discussions, lectures, in addition to an examination of key finds from Alauna (Maryport) and the surrounding area.

