



KEYWORTH & DISTRICT U3A

**ARCHITECTURE,
ARCHAEOLOGY AND
HISTORY (AAH) GROUP**

NEWSLETTER

NO. 9 December 2019

2020 Programme

Please note that the date of our October 22 meeting is the 15th NOT the 22nd as shown in last month's newsletter.

2019 December Meeting

A Christmas special. Quizzes with prize. Pies and cake. Chat about the year and the future programme.

Room Costs

As from 1st January 2020 the cost of our room at the Methodist Church will increase to £19.00 for the first two hours.

Given our current attendances which is averaging 16 this means we will need to increase the cost to £1.50 per meeting to cover the room cost and the tea and biscuits.

Digging for Britain

Started on BBC4, 20 November at 21:00

Professor Alice Roberts and the team are back once again to unearth some of Britain's most unusual and exciting archaeological finds.

In this series, they explore this year's finds in the west of Britain, such as a secret location in the Cotswolds with all the hallmarks of a high-status Anglo Saxon cemetery. Also, the team investigates a very precious and fragile artefact, and, at the site of Shaftesbury Abbey, the site of a missing cloister.

***Programme
2020***

JANUARY 16th
Methodist Church - Hall
Share your photos from 2019

FEBRUARY 20th
Methodist Church - Church

MARCH 19th
Methodist Church - Church

APRIL 16th
Outing to Wirksworth by coach.
Guided walk, Heritage Centre museum
visit and afternoon tea with cake.
Community Bus and car share.

MAY 21st
Methodist Church - Hall

JUNE 18th
All day outing by coach to Scrapston
Hall and Walled Garden.
Lunch included, guided tour of Hall
and enjoy the gardens and parkland.

JULY 16th
Methodist Church

AUGUST 29th
Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 17th
Outing to Strutt's Mill, Belper by coach
Museum guides and guided walk.

OCTOBER 15th - NOVEMBER 19th &
DECEMBER 17th. Methodist Church

The group meets in Keyworth Methodist Church Hall (sometimes in the church itself) on the third Thursday monthly commencing at 2 p.m.

Group leaders: Howard & Jackie Fisher. Email: handjaf@virginmedia.com Phone: 0115-937-2898

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Bone Evidence for Neanderthals' 'Last Necklace'

An eagle bone found in Spain may have been a part of 'the last necklace made by the Neanderthals', archaeologists believe.

The bone, thought to have come from the left leg of a Spanish Imperial eagle, was discovered in 2015 inside the Foradada Cave in Calafell, Tarragona.

It is dated at 40,000 years old and represents the 'most recent known use of talons for adornments by Neanderthals'.

Researchers believe the find contributes to 'the scarce evidence that ancient humans used animal parts for symbolic purposes as opposed to practical ones'.

As discoveries such as these are rare, archaeologists have previously argued that Neanderthals did not engage in symbolic culture until modern humans introduced it to them after migrating into Europe from Africa.

But according to the authors of a study published in the *Science Advances* journal, the finding adds to the growing evidence of a sophistication within this species.

Eagle talons have previously been found at Neanderthal sites across Europe and past research has suggested that these ancient humans may have used seashells as beads to convey ideas such as social status or rank with symbolic objects.

Antonio Rodriguez-Hidalgo, a researcher at the Institute of Evolution in Africa in Madrid, said, 'Neanderthals used eagle talons as symbolic elements, probably as necklace pendants.'

The researchers used 3D computer modelling to analyse the cut marks on the talon and radiocarbon dating methods to determine its age.

From i newspaper 3/11/2019

Ancient Shipwreck Discovery

Three shipwrecks from ancient and medieval times, together with much of their cargoes, have been discovered off the small Greek island of Kasos.

The oldest is a 2,300-year old trader. Its surviving cargo included amphorae and fine tableware. Archaeologists also found five stone anchors.

The two other ships dated to the 1st century BC and the 8th to 10th century AD.

Kasos is in the Dodecanese and lies between Crete and Rhodes on what is still a key trade route linking the Aegean Sea with the Middle East.

The discoveries came during an underwater survey which also located cannon, possibly from other sunken vessels that have not yet been located.

In the past Kasos was known as Amphe and reputedly used as a safe harbour by the Philistines. Its first known settlements are Minoan and Mycenaean and according to Homer's *Iliad*, it supplied ships during the Trojan war. The island was ruled by the Venetian Cornaro family from 1306 to 1537, then the Ottoman Empire.

Further exploration of the area will be undertaken during the next two years.

Exhibition on Screen

Members may be unaware of the excellent occasional series in cinemas with the above title.

The films deal with artists and provide their personal histories as well as exploring their artworks.

The screenings are only shown for one day so need to be looked out for. We see them at Broadway.

The most recent was at the beginning of November and dealt with Leonardo, providing a fascinating exploration of his life and his paintings. It gave us a greater understanding of his genius and character.

Primarily art based films do, however, give much historical information which aids greatly in understanding the art and artist.

Highly recommended.

Outings 2020 - ALL BY COACH

We have three outings planned for 2020 as described below.

Bookings will open in January and we will be giving tickets when you book.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH - WIRKSWORTH HERITAGE CENTRE AND TOWN WALK

This is a visit to the Wirksworth Heritage Centre museum coupled with a guided walk around Wirksworth. We have chosen the 'flat' walk as opposed to the 'steep' walk from the options to ensure we can all do it. The walk lasts for about an hour.

We will depart from Keyworth Selby Lane/Elm Avenue junction at 10.00 am to arrive in Wirksworth around 11 am. We will have a tour of the museum which has a lift. After this tour we have free time in Wirksworth to find lunch - there is a cafe attached to the Heritage Centre. At 1.30 pm will have our guided walk around this most interesting town.

Following the walk we have tea and cake and depart for home at 4 p.m.

Cost: £26.00 Per person including coach, tours and the tea and cake.

Upon contacting the centre about a tour Howard was surprised to learn that the Centre manager is someone he worked with on the GCR ill-fated museum project. Small world.

THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2020 SCAMPSTON WALLED GARDEN AND HALL

Scampston Hall is a beautiful country house which has been occupied by the same family for many years. A gem in the North Yorkshire countryside near to Malton.

We will depart from Selby Lane/Elm Avenue junction at 8.30 am to arrive at Scampston for 11 am. There will be lots of time to walk round the walled garden before our lunch which is booked for Noon.

The walled garden is beautiful and renowned for the signature prairie planting by the Dutch gardener, Piet Oudolf.

Our party will be divided into two sections for guided tours of the house at 1.30 and 2.30 pm. More time can be spent in the garden but there are also excellent short walks around the attached parkland and lake. At the very least a walk round the house to the gardens and lake is essential.

Time for an afternoon beverage in the restaurant before we depart at 4 p.m.

This really is a visit not to be missed.

Cost: £36.50 which includes, coach, entrance to garden, house tour and a light lunch of quiche and salad.

As with all old country houses there is a staircase to negotiate.

THURSDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER 2020 STRUTT'S NORTH MILL, BELPER

Departing from Selby Lane/Elm Avenue junction at 9.30 am to arrive in Belper at 10.30 am.

We have a cup of tea and biscuit arranged together with a guided tour of the mill museum.

The museum is on two floors with a stone staircase to descent to the lower level. For anyone not able to manage the stairs there is a video to watch of the basement. The basement shows open evidence of the method of fire proof construction of the mill and affords a view of the water wheel and millrace as it flows under the mill.

We then have a lunch break. Whilst there is no food catering at the mill, Belper centre has pubs and cafes where food can be bought - a short walk from the mill. Alternatively a picnic can be taken and enjoyed in the adjacent riverside gardens.

At 2 pm we have a guided walk around the outside of the mill complex, the Riverside Gardens and then to the Community. The latter is an area of worker's houses which the Strutt's built to provide good quality homes for their employees and in which the cobbled roads and houses still reflect how things were when the homes were originally built.

The walk includes a visit to the Unitarian Chapel at the top of the Community.

The walk should be accessible to us all but we need to be aware that in the Community area, the paving is cobbles and so a little uneven in places.

Cost: £22 per person includes coach, tours and tea and biscuit.

BOOKING FORMS FOR ALL THREE WILL BE INCLUDED WITH THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Catching a Mammoth

Anthropologists in Mexico believe that they have found two pits dug by humans 15,000 years ago to trap Woolly Mammoths.

Researchers from the National Institute of Anthropology and History said the pits were uncovered during excavations on land that was to be used as a rubbish dump.

The cavities, filled with bones from at least 14 mammoths, are in Tultepec, just north of Mexico City. It is believed that some of the animals had been butchered. The pits were about 6 feet deep and 75 feet in diameter.

The Institute said hunters may have chased the animals into the holes. Remains of two horse and camel species that disappeared in the Americas were also found.

Archaeologists have previously thought that early humans only killed mammoths if the animals had been accidentally trapped or hurt. However, this discovery could mean that such hunts were planned.

Radar Reveals 'Ghost' Fossil Footprints

“Ghost” footprints hidden since the end of the last Ice Age have been revealed by scientists using a new radar method which they hope could be used to investigate the movements of humans, animals and even dinosaurs.

Researchers at Cornell University hope it could be used to discover the fossilised footprints of humans, mammoths and giant sloths at the White Sands National monument in New Mexico.

They said the recently discovered ancient impressions revealed a wealth of information about how humans and animals moved around and interacted with each other 12,000 years ago.

The method could be used to learn about what early humans did when they were not at a campsite or a hunt kill site - the two types of archaeological areas best known for the time period.

‘We never thought to look under footprints’ said Thomas Urban, a research scientist at Cornell and lead author on the study. ‘But it turns out that the sediment itself has a memory that records the effects of the animal’s weight and momentum. It gives us a way to understand the biomechanics of extinct fauna’.

Viking Ship Find

Archaeologists in Norway have found the remains of what could be a Viking ship which is probably more than 1,000 years old.

Knut Paasche, a scientist with the country's Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU), said that a 13m (43 feet) long keel was spotted in September in a field that used to be a burial mound on the island of Edoeya, about 110 km west of the northern city of Trondheim.

The archaeologists used geo-radar techniques to detect traces of the vessel buried on the site.

Mr. Paasche said that the team also found a settlement that probably dated to the Merovingian or Viking period. The site is located on a shipping lane to Trondheim, close to where the first king of Norway (Harald Fairhair), was said to have fought two sea battles, winning royal power in Norway in the late 800s.

Experts said there were no immediate plans to unearth the ship.

The Viking era lasted from about 793 to about 1066.

In March, a ship was found buried west of Oslo using the same radar technique which uses radar pulses to image the sub-surface.

It is thought that Viking ship burials were reserved for people of significant status. Discoveries such as this bring new knowledge of the importance of specific places during the Viking era.

GEORGIAN DELIGHTS

LIFE DURING THE REIGN OF GEORGE IV (1820–1830)

THE
FORM AND ORDER
OF THE
SERVICE *that is to be performed,*
AND OF THE
CEREMONIES *that are to be observed,*
IN
THE CORONATION
OF
**HIS MAJESTY
KING GEORGE III.**

IN THE
ABBAY CHURCH OF S. PETER, WESTMINSTER,
On *Thursday, the 19th of July 1821.*

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN,
Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty.
1821.

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER 2019 – SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2020

Weston Gallery Exhibitions, Lakeside Arts

Exhibition at Lakeside from 13th
December 2019 to 29th March
2020 curated by Dr. Richard
Gaunt.

There are some associated
lunchtime talks - booking
essential as well as a concert on
18th December and a screening of
the film *Beau Brummel* on 16th
January.

Maybe we could use our
February meeting to visit this
exhibition?