



KEYWORTH & DISTRICT U3A

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

NEWSLETTER

NO. 6 September 2019

2019 PROGRAMME

The dates for 2019 meetings are:-

19th September Methodist Church. Peter Harding will be leading this meeting which will continue with the Simon Reeve's journey.

17th October outing by Community Bus and car share to Donington-le-Heath Manor House. **

21st November Methodist Church

19th December Methodist Church. At the August meeting the wish was expressed to hold a meeting in December.

2020 Programme - Meeting dates - Methodist Church except where indicated

16 th January Share your photos from 2019.

20th February

19th March

16th April Outing

21st May

18th June Outing

16th July

20th August

17th September Outing

22nd October

19th November

17th December

****Please see inside and back page for information on our outing in October.**

Because Jackie and I will not be at the September meeting we asked for your bookings for October at the August meeting or otherwise by getting it to us at our home before the end of September. Thank you all of you who have already booked.

The deadline for booking is 1st October because we need to advise the venue of our numbers by then.

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

Address: 21, Brockwood Crescent, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5HQ

BRITAIN'S OLDEST PUB?

A VIKING DRINKING HALL THOUGHT TO BE C800 YEARS OLD HAS BEEN DISCOVERED AT THE Skaill Farmstead in Westness on the isle of Rousay, Orkney.

It is believed to have been a high status Norse hall, possible for Sigurd a 12th century chieftain mentioned in the *Orkneyinga Saga* which is an historical narrative about the Orkney archipelago. UHI archaeologists have been working on the site for several years and believe the discovery of the hall will provide information about the eating and drinking habits of the people of the time.

The hall was found below a more recent farmstead where substantial stone walls were found 5.5 metres apart, with internal features like stone benches down each side. The building is about 13 m long and faces down a slope towards the sea. Excavation continues into the farm complex and its middens. The work has focussed on farming practices, diet and fishing and will provide information from Viking times to the 19th century.

Orkney was, of course, a seat of great Viking power.

Advance Notice

In our travels around the UK and abroad many of us take photographs of the places we visit.

Our meeting in January 2020 will be given over to you having an opportunity to share your images with the rest of us and giving a description of what we will be seeing. Your description can be as simple or detailed as you wish, no need to stress about it.

All that will be required is to let Howard have your images a couple of weeks before the meeting so that he can put them into a PowerPoint show. The images can be sent by email or given on a memory card. If you have any doubt how to do this just ask - it is really very simple.

October Outing - see back page for booking form

“The 1620s House and Garden at Donington le Heath, formerly Donington le Heath Manor House, has undergone a stunning refurbishment in order to tell the story of its former owners and residents. This rare and beautiful house is a surviving example of a family home built in the 13th century and then modernised in 1618. The house has been home to many families over its 700 year history, but the Digby family, which included the Gunpowder Plotter Sir Everard Digby, lived in the house for over two hundred years. It is towards the end of the Digby ownership that the newly refurbished house is focused, showing how people lived in late Elizabethan and early Jacobean times.

Visitors can now see the beautifully restored period rooms and talk to our volunteers about the history of the house, the families that lived here and about life in the 1620s. The house is set in beautiful 17th century style gardens with labelled plants and flowers, an orchard, herb gardens and a maze.”



Prehistoric Penguin

A person-sized penguin swam in the southern oceans 60 million years ago as reported by scientists who have found fossilised bones in New Zealand.

Previously unknown it would have stood about 5ft 2in (157.5 cm) tall and weighed up to 80kg which is about four times heavier and 40 cm taller than the Emperor penguin of today.

Now given the Latin name *Crossvallia wiparensis*, it hunted off the coast of New Zealand in the Paleocene era between 66 and 55 million years ago. It is similar to another large penguin found in Antarctica and so connects the two regions.

The senior curator at Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, said that after the extinction of dinosaurs, marine reptiles and giant fish there was an evolutionary opportunity for penguins to thrive and grow in size and that penguins took the opportunity to exploit the niche.

It seems that the giant penguins themselves became extinct withing 30 million years as large marine mammals began to rule the seas.

OUTINGS 2020

We are again planning three outings for 2020. All three are history and architecture based with a touch of archaeology at some and providing the opportunity to see places not generally open to the public on a regular basis.

Recently whilst staying on York visiting the CountryFile Live event at Castle Howard (yes, that VERY wet Friday) we also visited Scampston Hall. This venue has a lived-in family house, extensive gardens and estate walks and also a superb walled garden laid out by the famous Dutch gardener Piet Oudolf. Being a family home the house has very restricted access times but we will have a guided tour, probably by one of the family. Very good and reasonably priced cafe. The house is near Malton and so will be a full day's outing by coach.

Following on from our visit to Gainsborough Old Hall we are looking at a full day outing following the Pilgrim Fathers' life and journeys in North Notts. This again will be by coach and possibly using the same lady that guided us around the Old Hall or, if she is available, Sue Allen (known as the Mayflower Maid), a Pilgrim Fathers historian, author and tour guide living in North Notts.

Our third outing will be to Wentworth Woodhouse Hall. We talked with a pleasant couple who had a stand at CountryFile Live about this. We could do a tour which includes a rooftop visit on safety scaffolding which will only be available in 2020 since the roof work is scheduled to be finished towards the end of that year. The tour would be tailored to our requirements. Again likely a full day by coach. Tea room!

ALL THESE OUTINGS ARE OPEN TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Please note that following a recent outing using the Community Bus on a very hot day, the outings will be using commercial coaches with full air conditioning. The aircon on the Community Bus couldn't cope with that hot day and our journey, both to the venue and back, was most uncomfortable.

October Outing Booking Form

17th October 2019

Donington-le-Heath Manor House - Guided Tour

Cost: By Community Bus £14.00

By own car £10.00

This includes a cup of tea/coffee and cake.

Please note: the house entry fee is an annual fee so you can revisit anytime within 12 months.

Departing Keyworth Village Hall car park at 12.15 p.m.

Departing Donington-le-Heath 4.00 pm (eta Keyworth 5.15 p.m.)

Bookings need to be made by 1st October



Please reserve seats on the bus

I/we will travel by own transport

(Delete as appropriate)

Name 1

Name 2

I enclose £ Cash/cheque. Cash is preferred which saves our U3A Treasurer some work!

Cheques payable to Keyworth & District U3A

Please return booking form to Howard & Jackie Fisher at meeting or 21, Brockwood Crescent, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5HQ. PLEASE NOTE WE SHALL NOT BE AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.