



Learn, laugh, live

Keyworth & District

AAH Newsletter

No. 12 March 2020

COMMENT

Bookings for our 2020 outings are being received. They are now open to the general U3A membership so please get your bookings in as early as you can. We need to fill the coaches to ensure the viability of the outings. We don't want to have to cancel any of them due to lack of support.

Please also see the item about a visit to Lakeside which is an additional outing for the group.

If any of you have not yet renewed your U3A membership please note that it is due on 1st March.

I am very grateful to Pam and Margaret for their input after the talk at our February meeting (see page 2). I am very happy to receive any contribution from group members for inclusion in the newsletter. Please don't be shy to send relevant items at any time.

Contact Changes

Please note that our email addresses have changed:-

Howard: hfnotts785@gmail.com

Jackie: jfnotts451@gmail.com

These take effect immediately but telephone and mobile numbers remain the same.

Programme 2020

MARCH 19th

Methodist Church - Church

APRIL 16th

Outing to Wirksworth. Guided walk, Heritage museum visit and afternoon tea with cake. Coach travel.

MAY 21st

Methodist Church - Hall

JUNE 18th

All day outing by coach to Scampston Hall and Walled Garden.

Lunch included, guided tour of Hall and enjoy the gardens and parkland.

JULY 16th

Visit by local bus and tram to the Djanogly exhibition (see inside for further details)

AUGUST 29th

Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 17th

Outing to Strutt's Mill, Belper. Museum and guided walk. Coach travel.

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: hfnotts785@gmail.com Phone: 0115-937-2898
Address: 21, Brockwood Crescent, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5HQ

February Meeting follow-up.

Those who were with us at the February meeting had to listen to me talking about the WW1 PoW camps at Kegworth and Donington Park.

In discussion we touched on WW2 PoWs working on the farms around Keyworth. Pam Clarke recalls having such a worker on the family farm in Bradmore when she was a child and how her parents would provide meals for him but although invited to eat with them, he always refused and ate on his own.

Margaret Wright subsequently sent me her recollections sparked by my talk, she says:-

In 1956 when I was a student at Sutton Bonington, we went over to Donington Hall to get it ready for Hungarian refugees who were escaping after a revolution against the Soviets. It actually began as students demonstrating against the treatment of people in Poland but then developed and became much bigger. The Hall was in a bad state after the German prisoners left and I can remember painting walls etc. for the arrivals and they were made very welcome. Two years later in 1958 the Ockenden venture established a school for refugee boys. Students from other universities also helped.

Margaret has visited some web sites from which the following are notes:-

1. During the First World War, the British government requisitioned Donington Hall and used it as a POW camp. The Hall later housed Hungarian refugees fleeing the Soviets after a failed revolution in 1956.
2. The Army's occupation lasted well beyond the war years, and it is 1956 when Major J. Gillies Shields, grandson and heir of J. G. Shields took over his inheritance of the Hall and Park. Since the Army had made little effort to make good the damage they had caused the main effort involved urgent repairs to the Hall, the clearing of acres of military debris and the securing of the Park's boundaries. The difficulty of the task, however, did not prevent Major Shields from opening the Hall to refugees from the Hungarian Revolution.
3. With the whole estate needing extensive renovations after the war, the family rented the estate out as farm land. They retained the Hall, which after the Soviet Army ensured a Communist regime in Hungary, became a refugee camp for those who came to the East Midlands. A letter to the Daily Telegraph from the Gillies Shields and Joyce Pearce thanked all those who were providing clothing, books and toys for the children, promising that once the immediate crisis was over, it was their intention to turn Donington Hall into a "home and school for children of all nationalities who now live without hope in the displaced persons camps in Germany, their parents were our allies, their sufferings caused through loyalty to our cause".
4. The Ockenden venture was founded in 1951 by three local schoolteachers, and took its name from founder Joyce Pearce's family home "Ockenden" in White Rose Lane, Woking. The Ockenden Venture became a registered charity on 24 February 1955, under the War Charities Act 1940, its stated object being to receive young East European people from post World War II displaced persons camps in Germany and 'to provide for their maintenance, clothing, education, recreation, health and general welfare'. Within a few years, world events and the increasing numbers of refugees world wide would lead it to widen its remit and its scope. The project had begun in 1951, when Joyce Pearce (1915-1985) persuaded Woking District Council to help support a holiday for 17 displaced East European teenagers at her sixth form centre at Ockenden House, as part of the Festival of Britain. An ad hoc arrangement was subsequently made for two of the girls to stay in Woking when they had obtained visas to attend school in England. The plight of older non-German speaking children in the refugee camps, for whom the educational provision was inadequate, provided the stimulus for Joyce Pearce, her friend and teaching colleague Margaret Dixon (1907-2001) and her cousin Ruth Hicks (1900-1986), headmistress of Greenfield School, Woking, to found the Ockenden Venture. The project was initially a modest one based solely in Woking, but houses were soon acquired in Haslemere, and in 1958 Ockenden took over Donington Hall near Derby as a school for boys.

20 Mummies Found in Buried Tombs

Archaeologists uncovered 16 ancient tombs containing artefacts 2,500 years old, in one of the most important discoveries in recent decades.

The tombs, in Egypt's Minya region, are eight metres deep and contain the mummified bodies of 20 high priests and officials. The finds by Ministry of Antiquities archaeologists, include human-shaped sarcophagi made of limestone and engraved with hieroglyphics. One sarcophagus was dedicated to the sky god Horus.

The findings are the latest in a series of successful digs in recent years, and Egyptian Minister of Antiquities, Khaled el-Enany, said the region continued to reveal its secrets.

He was speaking during a presentation of the findings, which included a haul of more than 10,000 blue and green funerary figures and 700 amulets, some of which were made of gold. Some amulets were marked with the shape of scarabs and images of a winged cobra. More finds are expected.

T. Rex's Fearsome Older Cousin Found in Canada

A precursor to *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, which has been called "the reaper of death", roamed what is now North America almost 80 million years ago.

Fossils from the newly discovered tyrannosaurus variant, a cousin to the later *T. Rex*, were unearthed in Alberta, Canada. Dr. Francois Therrien, curator of dinosaur palaeoecology at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta said, "we are thrilled to announce the first new species of tyrannosaur to be discovered in Canada for 50 years".

It lived during the Cretaceous period, millions of years before *T. Rex*, and has been given the scientific name of *Thanatotheristes degrootorum*. Thanatos was the Greek god of death and theristes translates as reaper. Degrootorum is a tribute to John and Sandra De Groot, a Canadian couple who found the fossilised remains in 2010 on the shore of the Bow River in southern Alberta.

Although at about 8m (26ft) tall it was smaller than the later T.Rex which reached about 12m tall, it is thought to have been no less deadly. It had a mouthful of teeth as sharp as steak knives, each more than 7cm long.

Scientists believe it preyed on large, plant-eating dinosaurs such as the horned Xenoceraptors and the dome-headed Colepiochephale.

Mr. De Groot, a farmer and amateur palaeontology enthusiast, found the remains of skull and jawbone, while he was out hiking. "The jawbone was an absolutely stunning find. We knew it was special because you could clearly see the fossilised teeth", he said.

At 79.5 million years old, *Thanatotheristes degrootorum* is believed to be 2.5 million years older than its closest relative. "This discovery is significant because it fills a gap in our understanding of tyrannosaur evolution" said Dr. Therrien.

The findings are published in the journal *Cretaceous Research*.

Fossil of the Largest Turtle Discovered

Fossils of giant turtles the size of cars have been unearthed in Venezuela and Colombia. The *Stuoendemys geographicus* swam in the freshwater swamps of South America between 5 and 10 million years ago, munching on vegetation and small animals.

Experts have known of its existence since the 1970s, but the discovery of several “exceptional” new fossil specimens have helped the team from the University of Zurich shed new light on the animal.

Its size and weight rivalled that of a car, with the latest fossil records suggesting it had a shell stretching 2.4 metres to 3 metres, and a total weight of 1,145kg. Scientists think it is the largest turtle that ever existed.

The scientists have also discovered that male *Stupendemys geographicus* had horned shells.

“The two shell types indicate that two sexes existed - males with horned shells and females without horns”, said Marcelo Sanchez, director of the Paleontological Institute of the university and head of the study.

Deep scars found in the fossils indicate that the horns were probably used as weapons to fight rivals.

A lower jawbone indicates that the turtles ate small animals, vegetation, fruit and seed.

Local Outing

One of our Summer meeting dates will be a visit to the CULTURES OF CLOTH - TEXTILES IN THE MEDIEVAL MIDLANDS exhibition at the Djanogly Centre at Lakeside. We can use the Keyworth bus to the Station then the tram to University Boulevard which means that those of us with bus passes will not incur any costs! The exhibition is free.

The exhibition is on from 19th May to 23rd August so we have plenty of choice of dates. The date will depend on whether our longer outings proceed - bookings are too low at present to run them!

Textiles were the most important manufactured product in the medieval world and this exhibition curated by Dr. Chris King from the Department of Archaeology looks at the archaeology of medieval cloth production and consumption.

The Midlands were a major centre for sheep farming and cloth making, which we can see in the remains of deserted medieval settlements and through spinning and weaving tools.

Spreading disease and depopulation, as well as wealth and knowledge, medieval cloth production and trade inter-connected communities across Europe, surviving and driving profound social, economic and environmental change.

Annual Subscriptions

Just a reminder that the annual sub to our U3A falls due on 1st March. If you haven't yet renewed payment can be made at Monthly meetings or at our next meeting. If using the latter method it would be helpful if you could let me know so that I can bring the renewal items for you and so save postage costs.

The Dead Within The Walls: Burials and Boundaries in Late Antique Rome

Talk by Dr. Maria Kneafsey, Finds Liaison Officer for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire

Djanogly Theatre £3.00 book online or at the Box office on site.

For centuries inhabitants of Rome buried or cremated their dead outside the city limits. The pomerium was the sacred boundary separating the living from the dead. From the 5th century AD burials began to creep inside the city, contravening Roman law and established practice. This talk examines why and how this change altered the fabric of the Eternal City.

Cultures of Cloth: Textiles in the Medieval Midlands

Talk by Dr. Chris King in Djanogly Theatre Wednesday 24th June 1-2 pm. Talk accompanies the exhibition of the same name.

£3.00. Book online or at Box Office.

7th Nottinghamshire History and Archaeology Festival

Saturday, 20th June. Noon to 4 p.m. Djanogly Gallery, Recital hall, Rehearsal hall and Foyer, Lakeside.

The event will include displays, craft activities, living history events, handling of original material, talks and the opportunity to have archaeological finds identified.

Free, drop-in

2020 Outings

WE STILL HAVE PLACES AVAILABLE ON OUR THREE SUMMER OUTINGS:

WIRKSWORTH HERITAGE CENTRE, GUIDED TOWN WALK AND AFTERNOON TEA
ON 16TH APRIL

SCAMPSTON WALLED GARDEN, LUNCH AND GUIDED HOUSE TOUR - 18TH JUNE

STRUTT'S NORTH MILL, BELPER, GUIDED TOUR OF EXTERIOR, THE RIVERSIDE
GARDENS AND WORKER'S HOUSING STREETS - 17TH SEPTEMBER

TO BE SURE OF A PLACE PLEASE DON'T DELAY - BOOKING FORMS FROM
HOWARD AND JACKIE