

Hello and welcome to the first edition of Dig This!, the newsletter for members of 3D Archaeology Society. In this edition, you will find a summary of events and news so far, information about the Towerhill Farm site and some articles, puzzles and jokes supplied by members. I hope you enjoy reading it and will send me any comments or ideas you have for future editions.



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FIRST MEETING 1ST OCTOBER 2003

Our first full meeting was held at the Prince of Wales Pub in Starbeck, the small sub-committee (Andrea Hirst-Gee, Jackie Wiglesworth, Tom Goundry and Paul Warner) who had been researching the possibility of carrying out some investigations at Towerhill Farm Grewelthorpe delivered their presentation. They had been on a visit to the site and prepared photographs and maps. They had also interviewed the present owner and the tenant farmer (Mike Blades who is a member of 3D) the information was very interesting and an outline of further investigations was prepared.

It was decided to form to begin with:-

a research team who would carry out desk based research and report back.

a survey team who would survey the two main mounds on the site.

A fieldwalk exercise was planned for 12th October, this would not actually be on the site, but on a field nearby and would give a chance for everyone to visit the site and see the layout of the area and it's features.

A Site Survey would begin on 9th November to measure levels and record information about the site.

After this the meeting finished with a raffle and Ros Armstrong was the lucky first prizewinner choosing a FANTASTIC 3D T-SHIRT as her prize.

For all you unlucky people who didn't win, and haven't got a t-shirt yet you can buy them now from Ray Bonde price only £9.50.

TOWERHILL (FINGERFIELD) PROJECT

Many thanks to members of 3D for showing an interest in and taking on this project at Towerhill.

For the six years or so, that I've lived here a number of features aroused my curiosity. Now, with the involvement of 3D, some light may be shed on the history of Towerhill.

We've had three visits to the site to date. The first was just a look around by three of the team, Jackie, Paul and Tom to see if it was worth taking further. Thanks to them for the initial presentation. The second gave interested members an opportunity to look at the site and practice laying out a grid and field walking. On the latest visit, we made a start on plotting the site. It was slow to begin with but as we got used to using the equipment things moved on a bit. It's like turning the first page of a new book, what's coming next?

If nothing else, it will be a practical lesson in archaeology starting from scratch.

I look forward with excitement to continued involvement in this project with 3D.



Mike Blades

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

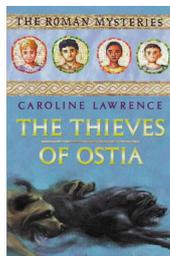
On 14th October Dave Evans the Finds Identification Officer for the York area of the Portable Antiquities Scheme came to talk to 3D about The Treasure Act. He also brought with him a wide selection of finds from their collection. Dave was an interesting speaker and explained that the Portable Antiquities Scheme was a national scheme of Finds Liaison Officers which was set up mainly because of the rise in finds made by metal detectorists - they make over 4000,000 finds a year. The scheme allows finds to be looked at and identified and a record kept of where they were found, very important information that may be lost without the scheme.

The other part of Dave's job is to identify possible treasure and refer it to the coroner and British Museum. Finders can do this themselves or the advisor can do it for them. After this, the value is set and if a museum wants to buy it then a reward is paid to the owner, who may be the finder or the landowner or both according to previous agreements or the item is returned to them.

Dave also visits clubs and societies publicising the scheme and helps organize community archaeology groups.

After the talk, Dave passed around various types of finds and everyone joined in the discussions about what they were and what clues could be gained from them. Dave also shared a lot of his own knowledge with us. This was a most enjoyable and educational evening, thank-you Dave!

BOOK REVIEW



The Thieves Of Ostia

By Caroline Lawrence

The First Book In The Roman Mysteries Series.

Are you looking for a good book to read to children aged 9-14 that won't bore you rigid? Or an idea for a Christmas present for a small relative who's taking after you and is interested in history and Archaeology? If you are, this book and the other six in the series could be the answer you are looking for. The books are exciting whodunits set in Ancient Rome.

They have four main characters:- Flavia Gemina, a Roman sea captain's daughter, Jonathan the Jewish boy next door, Nubia the African Slave girl and Lupus, the mute beggar boy.

In each book they have a series of adventures and mysteries to solve. The books are historically accurate and include maps and a glossary of words children might not have come across before, and although these could be dull, they are not at all and there is even a short section about which places in the story are real and which are imaginary.

A great read!

More information about the books and their author can be found at www.romanmysteries.com

PUZZLE

Who is the Upland Archaeologist?

This puzzle can be solved by combining deduction, analysis and sheer persistence, the essential facts are: -

1. There are five different archaeologists who live in adjoining squats each with a different coloured trowel, each are interested in different time periods, specialise in different finds groups and work in different areas. They also drink different drinks.
2. The Romanist uses a trowel with a red handle.
3. The Post mediaevalist is interested in lowland archaeology.
4. Lager is drunk by the archaeologist with the green trowel.
5. The mediaevalist drinks whisky.
6. The archaeologist with the green trowel lives immediately to the right (your right) of the archaeologist with the orange trowel.
7. The archaeologist with the interest in iron artefacts works in rural areas.
8. The archaeologist with the interest in wooden artefacts owns a yellow trowel.
9. Bitter is drunk by the archaeologist who lives in the middle squat.
10. The Prehistorian lives in the first squat on the left.
11. The archaeologist who researches copper alloy objects lives next door to the archaeologist who digs farm sites.
12. The archaeologist who researches wooden objects lives next door to the archaeologist who digs monastic sites.
13. The pot-researching archaeologist drinks gin.
14. The industrial archaeologist researches bone objects.
15. The Prehistorian lives next to the archaeologist with the blue trowel.

So, clever clogs, which archaeologist works on upland sites and which drinks rum?

There is a 'surprise prize' for the first correct entry and for those who don't manage to work it out the answer will be in the next edition of the newsletter.

Look out for these Viking Villagers and their adventures in the next thrilling instalment of your 3D Newsletter!



SAGAS OF THE NORSEMEN

Around 834AD, an important Viking funeral was held at Oseberg, near the Oslo Fjord in Norway. The corpse of a rich and powerful person was placed on the deck of a slender ship, which was then buried in a grave mound. Uncovered by archaeologists more than a millennium later, the ship burial opened a window on to the culture of pagan Europe including Germany and England as well as Scandinavia.

By combining information from early writings and archaeological findings, such as this one, a picture emerges of a lifestyle and a philosophy that still has the power to excite the imagination. The sagas of the Norsemen explain the different levels of existence in the universe, including the place within that framework for gods and mortals and the purpose of the distinct classes that gave form and order to society.

The principle Norse gods were recognisably human, dominated by the cunning Odin and the sometimes, brutish Thor. Eager to feast and carouse, they conspired to compete with each other and their enemies in a series of vivid episodes played out against settings that resembled the human world. Albeit, a world dominated by menacing elemental forces and a climate and terrain against which the gods had to pit their wits and strength.

In the human sphere of Midgard, mortals cohabited with gods, dwarves and giants, these fearsome enemies posing a constant threat. In the harsh environment of Northern Europe, where life itself was believed to have begun by a fusion of the two extremities ~ fire and ice, it was necessary to have stamina and endeavourance to survive the tests posed by the pitiless climate and relentless tribal violence. Such a life made the region's people intensely aware of the inescapable nature of fate. Without remorse, Odin selected those who were to die in battle, an apocalyptic demise, even for the gods, was inevitable. All roads led to Ragnarok, the end of the world in which gods and humankind would be entirely destroyed, before the cycle would turn and a new, more peaceful world would emerge.

Odin: Evidence suggests that the cult of Odin is very old. By the time of the Romans, the Germanic tribes already had a protective deity, Wodan, who was invoked for success in battle and also exhibited Odin's sinister and fickle nature. In Pagan England, a god named Woden was patron of kings and princes and the god of war and magic.

Thor: When his hammer Mjollnir ~ crucial to the god's security in Valhalla ~ was stolen, Thor had to suffer great humiliation to retrieve it. His comical attempt at cross-dressing endangered its recovery!

Loki: An ambiguous character, Loki was listed as companion to the gods yet he was destined to become their adversary in Ragnarok. He was a typical trickster possessed of a sense of mischief that the gods had to endure. Yet, this miscreant was also the gods' friend, often helping them and indeed, it was he who provided them with Thor's hammer Mjollnir, their most powerful weapon.

Freyja: Of all the goddesses in Asgard, Freyja was the most beautiful. She was revered as the "bride of the Vanir" and was a fertility goddess, offering prosperity to the community as well as in marriage. She had a reputation as a flirt. She enjoyed love poetry and used her love lore on many gods and creatures of the underworld. The trickster god Loki has accused her of having an incestuous relationship with her brother Frey. Her most prized possession was the necklace of the Brisings. She bartered sexual favours in order to obtain it by promising to spend one evening with each of the four dwarfs who crafted it. There were no magical attributes linked with this piece of jewellery. Therefore, vanity alone caused her to treasure it. When Odin had Loki take it away from her, Freyja started a war in retaliation. Freyja rode through the battlefield in her cat-drawn chariot. She picked up half of the corpses, leaving Odin the remaining half. Like Odin, Freyja was a leader of souls as well as a sorceress.





WALK THIS WAY! FIELDWALKING DAY AT TOWERHILL

If you had been looking in a field near Tower Hill Farm on Sunday 12th October 2003 you may have seen a very strange sight, a bunch of shivering people tangling themselves up in tapes, ranging poles, tripods and marking pegs. This was our first visit to Towerhill farm and we were learning how to begin surveying the site. Led by John Buglass, assisted by Nick Kelly this was a very useful and informative day. Skills we had only read about or practised in the class- room were tried out and we finished up with a short fieldwalk and metal detect! It was a very cold day, but a very enjoyable one. Thank-you John and Nick for all your help and to everyone else who brought equipment or took part.

MEASURING MAYHEM AT TOWERHILL FARM

The sunny dawning of Sunday November 9th saw a small but intrepid team of 3D members gathered at Towerhill Farm ready to survey for England. OK this may be a slight exaggeration it wasn't quite dawn, more like 10ish, it wasn't sunny - but at least it wasn't raining either and we weren't intrepid, more like slightly nervous after we had taken part in a learning session of what seemed to be incredibly complicated methods a few weeks before. Would we ever be able to carry out these tasks by ourselves? Thank goodness for the welcome sight of a large bearded man in the car park. (Not a phrase I often use!). Nick Kelly was a fantastic help all day, not only did he bring all his measuring equipment for us to use but he helped everyone to become confident using it and recording the information.

Once we had marked out the area and started to get the hang of reading the scales we began to pick up speed, the only real difficulty being the height variations (amongst us) not on the ground every time we swapped reader, much box lifting and balancing had to take place, Ray and Julie kept everyone entertained falling off the box at regular intervals!

We had a short lunch-break in our beautifully erected tent which was most useful for keeping the wind off, then back to more surveying. We all worked hard and I think by the end of the day we had achieved a lot and had an enjoyable day. We won't be going out to the site again now until after Christmas so lets hope we don't forget our new found skills.

A big thank-you to everyone who helped with this day, especially Nick Kelly.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 26 th November	Hermitage Talk, Prince Of Wales Starbeck (Non- members welcome £1 a head)
Saturday 29 th November	Yorkshire Museum and York Dungeon Outing
Sunday 18 th January	Bradford Industrial Museum – Members free outing

There will probably be a Christmas Social event as well but no date has been set yet. We will be continuing to hold the talks at The Prince Of Wales Starbeck as all of you who filled in the views and comments forms liked the venue.