

VOLUME 6
ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2011

For info about forthcoming events, contact:

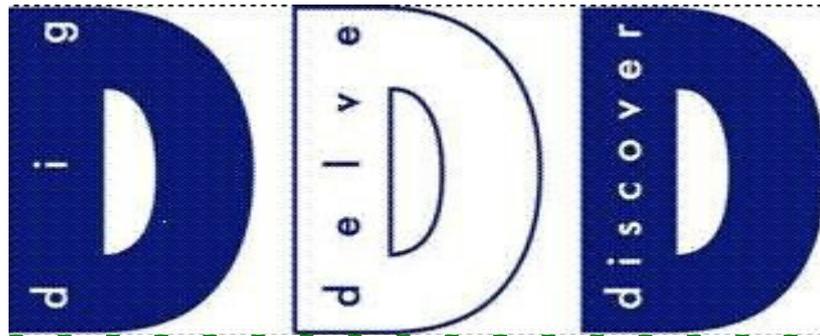
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Dig This!

THE NEWSLETTER OF 3D ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Welcome to the "new look" newsletter, produced for 3D members, by 3D members .

Over the coming issues, I hope to bring you details of coming events, articles on trips the group has made, newsworthy tidbits and various items of general interest.

Of course, what will make it really readable, will be contributions from anyone in the group who has something of interest to share with everyone. So please, if you have a write up on a trip, an informative "take" on a topic of interest or even some good archaeological jokes, do send them to me, Janet, for inclusion in the newsletter. Failure to do this may result in my having to fill it with silly cartoons, or make stuff up. You have been warned!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- * December 17th —3D Christmas Dinner
- * January 19th 2012— Annual General Meeting— Wetherspoons
- * February 16th— Ancient food night. Bring something old to eat , to share with friends.
- * March 15th "Please Sir, can I have some more ?"talk. (Food in the Workhouse .)
- * April 19th Gristhorpe Man talk.

Venue:

The Meeting Room,
Wetherspoons,
Parliament Street,
Harrogate

7pm for a 7.30pm start

Orkney 2011



Ring of Brodgar at sunset



3D at Maeshowe

Magical landscapes

*"Ingigerth is
the most
beautiful of
all
women"....*

*Translation of
Viking runes in
Maeshowe*

The highlight of the year for me, must undoubtedly be the trip we took to Orkney in May this year. Most people will have heard of Skara Brae or Maeshowe, but nothing prepares you for the awe inspiring feats of engineering mastered by Neolithic people in these islands.

To stand in Maeshowe, older than the pyramids, where Vikings sheltered from the wintry gales and idled their time away, carving messages

of love or conquest, is mind blowing..

Then to later peer into the remains of a Neolithic house at Skara Brae and wonder at the similarities between us; brings one within "touching distance" of those ancient people. The fabric of time feels thin there and you can visualize the smoky, cosy, huddled houses that provided refuge from the storms outside.

Then at the close of day, we stood in the magnificent henge of The Ring Of Brodgar, battered by gales and frothing sea. It stands in the centre of a ritual landscape. We do not know what its purpose was, but it certainly feels magical.

Other wonderful places we visited were chambered tombs where the Ancestors held vigil over the settlements below as at Cuween, or on cliffs, as at the Tomb of the Eagles.

Recent History of Orkney



The Italian Chapel

Just as fascinating were the remains of war in Orkney. The Italian Chapel was built by Italian prisoners of war, held on Orkney as labour for building the Churchill Barriers. These were to deter enemy ships during World War 2.

Given a Nissan hut for worship, a truly talented artist named Chiochetti created beautiful paintings and architectural effects using whatever came to hand, including "bully beef" cans.

The nearby bay of Scapa Flow, became the back drop of the scuttling of the German Fleet at the end of World war 1. Although most of the ships were salvaged, there are still plenty of large chunks of rusting metal littering the beaches, or jutting forlornly from the water.

I was so taken with Orkney, I wrote a lengthy report on the trip. It does however run to several pages! If anyone wants to read it, I can email it out.

Segedunum - 3D goes North

A recent, enjoyable day trip was to Segedunum, a Roman fort in modern-day Wallsend, Tyne and Wear. The fort lay at the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall near the banks of the River Tyne, forming the eastern-most portion of the wall. It was in use as a garrison for approximately 300 years, almost up to 400AD. Today, Segedunum is the most thoroughly excavated fort along Hadrian's Wall, and is operated as Segedunum Roman Fort,

Baths and Museum.

The museum contains items of interest that were found when the site was excavated and has a superb model of how the fort would have looked in its heyday. There is also a reconstruction of the Bath house in all its gaudy glory. A large observation tower overlooks the site, giving a "birds eye" view of the whole site, and houses a decent café. We spent a fascinating couple of hours

at Segedunum before moving on.

We also tried to visit Arbeia Roman Fort in South Shields. Sadly, it was the day of the Great North Run, and having battled through legions of fun runners to get there, it was shut!

Better luck next time!



Bath House, Segedunum

The Harrogate Hoard— it is, really.

Andrew Harrison, the Curator of the Harrogate Hoard, or Vale of York Hoard, as it is "mistakenly" called, gave a lively and informative talk at the last meeting. He took his audience step-by-step through the finding of the Hoard by metal detectorists, then the excavation, cleaning and identification processes.

The size and quality of the Harrogate Hoard is amazing. The rare objects in the

collection come from as far away as Afghanistan, Ireland, Russia and Scandinavia. It is the second largest Viking hoard ever found, only smaller than the famous Cuerdale Hoard, which contained over 8,500 objects. The Harrogate silver gilt cup is so rare it is only the second of its kind ever to be found in Britain, and is among only six or seven known in Europe. Additionally, there were 617 coins, 67 pieces of silver including arm-

rings and hacksilver, a gold arm-ring and lead fragments. All but the eleven largest objects were packed inside the cup. Much of the hacksilver is typically Viking and a decayed lead sheet appears to have formed a covering or box.

Since the Hoard's discovery, two Iron Age torcs have been discovered at Towton and are with the Yorkshire Museum — who knows what else awaits discovery locally?

'Seeing a gold bracelet gradually appear through layers of coins is something we will never forget.'

Metal detectorists David and Andrew Whelan

Archaeology in the News— Viking Boat Burial in UK

The UK mainland's first fully intact Viking boat burial site has been discovered by archaeologists working in the Scottish Highlands. The 5m-long grave contained the remains of a high status Viking, who was buried with an axe, a sword with a beautifully decorated hilt, a spear, shield boss and bronze ring-pin.

The Viking had been buried

in a ship, whose 200 or so metal rivets were also found by the team .

Co-Director of the project and archaeology Teaching Fellow Dr Hannah Cobb, from The University of Manchester said, "A Viking boat burial is an incredible discovery, but in addition to that, the artefacts and preservation make this one of the most important Norse graves

ever excavated in Britain. ."

Dr Cobb has spent six years excavating artefacts in the Ardnamurchan Peninsula underpinning 6,000 years of its history.



Unearthing the boat burial (Dan Addisson)



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Amazing Artefacts

I thought it would be fun to spotlight an amazing artefact each issue. This is the Alfred Jewel, held by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. It bears the inscription "AELFRED MEC HEHT GEWYRCAN", "Alfred ordered me to be made" and dates from the reign of King Alfred the Great (ruled 871-899).

The jewel is made of gold and cloisonne enamel, covered with a transparent piece of rock crystal. It was discovered in 1693 about 4 miles from Athelney, where Alfred founded a monastery.

It is thought to be either a book pointer or a symbol of office.



The Alfred Jewel

**Don't forget our website—full of photos, reviews and back copies
of the newsletter....
<http://3darchaeology.co.uk/>**

Here are the jokes, folks!

Most mothers tell their daughters to marry doctors...I told mine to marry an archeologist because the older she gets, the more interested he will be in her!

Where do Vikings send their toddlers?

To a Norsery!

The archaeologist who accidentally ate one of his tools had an upset stomach, not to mention irregular trowel movements. ☺

And finally...

Merry Christmas!



See you in 2012 !

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