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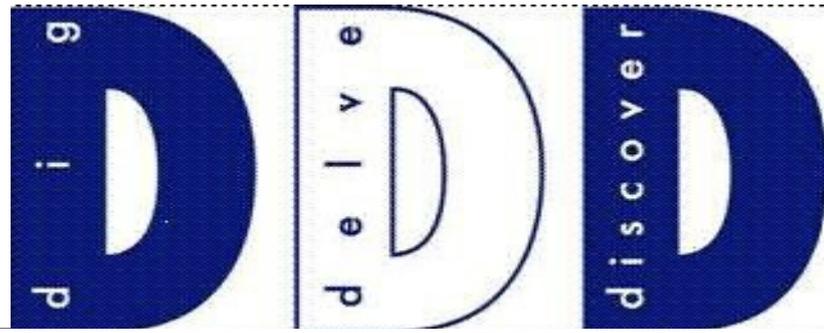
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Dig This!

THE NEWSLETTER OF 3D ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Hello everyone, and welcome to the February Edition of the 3D newsletter.

After the last issue, I had some positive feedback and have therefore volunteered to continue as the Editor for this year. Hope that does not strike dread and foreboding into your hearts!

The main event since the last issue, was of course the Christmas meal at The Smith's Arms at Beckwithshaw. I'm sure those of you who attended will agree that it was a lovely meal, in good company. The wine flowed, the party poppers popped, and the cracker jokes were groaned at.

Best of all though was Robert's marvelous creation of Skara Brae in edible form. We were all amazed at the man's ingenuity with sponge cake and icing. It inspired much conversation and reminiscence for those who have been lucky

enough to see the site in real life. It just remains to be seen what throwaway remark this year will inspire Robert for next Christmas!

So thanks for that Robert, and for all your hard work over the past year, from everyone at 3D.



Skara Brae cake, as created by Robert Morgan

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- * 16th February— Ancient food and drink evening. Bring something old to eat or drink, plus hopefully an explanation of what it is. Microwave available.
- * 15th March—"Please Sir, can I have some more? "talk. (Food in the Workhouse .)
- * 19th April— talk on Grisetorpe Man with Nigel Melton
- * 17th May— talk - Brickmaking in Bradford with Derek Barker

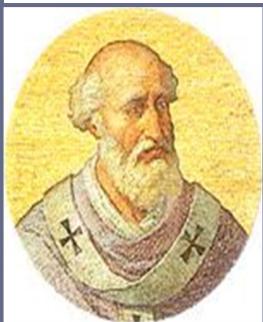
Venue:

The Meeting Room,
Wetherspoons,
Parliament Street,
Harrogate

7pm for a 7.30pm start

Documents from History by Robert Morgan (courtesy of The Times)

The tyrants' charter – Pope Urban II's Sermon at Clermont November 1095



Pope Urban II

“Let nothing delay those who are going to go. Let them settle their affairs, collect money, and when winter has ended and spring has come, zealously undertake the journey under the guidance of the Lord”

Though it was an Oration and not strictly a document at all, contemporary chroniclers ensured that the sermon of Pope Urban II at Clermont in November 1095 legitimised the violent suppression of political and religious opposition, and established a creed that has served the interests of dictators and tyrants ever since.

Urban's sermon called

upon good Christians to march upon the Turks, who had overrun the Holy City of Jerusalem, and “hasten to exterminate this vile race from our lands”. In return, he said, they would be forgiven all their sins. Knights and commoners volunteered on the spot to cries of “God wills it” And so was launched the first crusade

In his sermon, Urban spoke of the task that needed to

be addressed:

“For the Turks, a Persian people, have attacked them, as many of you already know...They have seized more and more of the lands of the Christians, have already defeated them in seven times as many battles, and have devastated the kingdom of God. If you allow them to continue much longer they will conquer God's faithful people much more extensively.”

Urban's Promise

“For all those going thither there will be remission of sins if they come to the end of this fettered life while either marching by land or crossing by sea, or in fighting the pagans.”

Men volunteered on the spot to cries of “God wills it.” Though the French predominated, the chronicler Guibert thought that there was “hardly a

people living according to the law of Christ that did not make every effort to join them”. He wrote of men arriving at Channel seaports whose language was so unknown that they “laid their fingers on one another in the form of the cross”. Scots were among them, “bare-legged, wearing cloaks of shaggy skins...hastening from their mist shrouded lands”.

On July 15th 1099, the crusaders broke into the Holy City and what followed was no ordinary slaughter. No one has ever seen such carnage of pagans.” The piles of Muslim dead were” almost as high as the houses”. The synagogue in which the city's Jews were sheltering was set on fire to burn them alive.

Legacy

Pope Urban II died shortly after this sermon and did not see the aftermath. Urban's crusading ethic, and the use of faith as a justification for aggression survived the subsequent loss of the Holy Land. Its blend of violence, zeal and piety proved immensely strong and adaptable.

Christ had admonished his followers to love their

enemies, Urban to exterminate them. An explanation was needed, and the Church looked back almost 700 years to find one. St. Augustine of Hippo had argued that Christ was a spiritual warrior and that pacifism was “the complaint of the timid mind, not of the religious...Certain wars that must be waged against the violence of those

resisting are commanded by God or legitimate ruler and are undertaken by the good”.

Gratian, a Bolognese jurist and monk, drew on Augustine when he laid out the doctrinal basis for the use of force some 40 years after the Jerusalem massacre.

It was the start of a charter for tyranny.



Preaching the Crusade

How long have you lived here?" by Elizabeth Newby

There is a Lord Peter Whimsy detective mystery by Dorothy L Sayers, "Gaudy Night", where the plot surrounds the death of an historian who became so enamoured of his theory, that when he discovered evidence that he was incorrect, suppressed vital papers and hid them. Being too dedicated an historian to destroy them, led eventually to his suicide.

The same drastic ending did not happen to archaeologist Ales Hrdlicka. He was the powerful leader of ultra-conservative elements who stated that the Native American Indians were virtual newcomers to the

American continent. The arrival of the first Native Americans he determined as only being 8,000 years ago, the continent being uninhabited until that time. This theory was completely rigid and an official blind eye was turned to any suggestions that the peoples had inhabited the continent thousands of years previously. These academic giants led by Hrdlicka were so strong, that scholars risked their careers by disagreeing with them and could damage a promising research career in the Government service or universities.

Hrdlicka had the first Americans arriving 8,000 years ago by water from Asia across the narrow strip known as the Bering Strait. It was not until a chance

discovery of a spear point collected in Alaska, which was estimated to be about 10- 12,000 years old, cast doubt on the fixed theory. Then in 1926 the Denver Museum was excavating a site near Folsom, New Mexico, and discovered a stone spear point embedded in the remains of an extinct species of Ice Age bison, proving the presence of people living in the Americas at a much earlier date. Hrdlicka was so enamoured of his theory that he refused to believe this evidence until well onto the 1940s.

New evidence

New evidence came to light and younger and braver archaeologists published their findings. With the aid of glaciologists they uncovered indications that sufficient water was locked into the Polar ice cap to lower the sea level and allow a broad grass and tundra plain, at least 200 miles in width, to connect the two continents, creating a land called Beringia. This allowed hunter-gatherers to walk from one continent to the other. This was about the end

of the Pleistocene Ice Age in America. So the 8,000 years of native settlement now became 12-14,000 years.

In the 1950s significant improvements in radio carbon dating technologies showed that 14,000 years was far too recent; 37 – 38,000 years was indicated for sites located in Texas and Alberta, Canada. Another Texan site and the Canadian Yukon yielded dates of 27,000 years, Mexico gave 23,000 years and Peru, 20,000

years. Other research suggests a human presence in the Americas of at least 35,000 years, and possibly longer.



Map of Beringia

All the very early human occupants of the Americas appear to be Homo Sapiens Sapiens, a form of human believed to have evolved about 50,000 years ago. There is however academic agreement that the first Americans came in large part, from Asia, in the region of the Bering Strait.

Was Hrdlicka so besotted with his theory that he had a closed mind, or was he trying to prove that the Native

American Indian was a new-comer in historical terms, and therefore had little claim to the land and riches the white settlers had taken, or was he only the official mouthpiece of the settlers' conscience?

Information taken from "North American Indians" by Norman Bancroft Hunt.



Early Native American Tribes

The Hungate Dig by Janet Waite

Work began in 2007 to uncover the archaeology beneath a new housing development in the Hungate area of York, and was to continue for 5 years, finishing this winter. A row of modern shops and an old fire station were demolished, and the Victorian streets of Haver Lane and Dundas Street began to emerge..

Excavations since have revealed a mediaeval lost church and graveyard (St Johns in the Marsh) and a myriad of ovens, middens and footings for timber buildings, including the Cordwainers Guild Hall from the 16th C and many domestic layers of rubbish .

The volume of finds has been staggering and a warehouse stands adjacent to the site, packed to the rafters with pottery, bones, artefacts from everyday life- stretching from Roman to Victoriana and much in between. After all, this was the dumping ground for York's rubbish for many centuries and a landing place on the river before that, even in Neolithic times.

I have had the fortune to work on this dig for one day a year for the last 3 years and have been able to see the development of the site, as well as having a go at excavating middens.

My first dig was in 2008 when the first layers of Victorian Hungate were being removed. The main item of excitement on the site was the communal 3 seater tipper toilet which would have served 11 households. All around were the footprints of the one –up-one-down cramped housing which Rowntree had dismissed as being unfit for human habitation in 1901.



One of the tipper "buckets"

The first dig

My first experience of the dig was a midden. Prized find of the day was a piece of worked antler and a Viking comb, with the carvings still clear. I also found a tiny pin made from two strands of twisted wire and many pieces of mainly mediaeval pottery and animal bone .At the end of the day, I got to wash my finds and see where they were going to end up, in the dig's huge warehouse.

When I returned the following year, the dig was well into the mediaeval and the site at first glance looked like something from the Somme.

The real archaeologists were getting excited about Roman and Viking finds – a row of Viking "shops" (which turned out to be part of a Viking ship which had been reused as walls in a cellar) and a Roman "mausoleum" which turned out nothing of the kind!

They were also attempting a new technique, to get a cross section through the layers of exposed archaeology to put on display. They covered the section with chicken wire, then pressed plaster of Paris on. When it dried, the plaster was carefully peeled back to reveal – a bit of a mess really. It was interesting to see techniques being developed in the field – even if it did not quite come off as planned!

Again, I was in a midden, and the finds this time were mainly pottery dating from Roman to late Mediaeval.

The last visit

My final visit was last summer, accompanied by Victoria from the group. We had an interesting day digging another pit, and found animal bones and some pot. Of great interest was a trench a few feet away where the professionals were uncovering three Roman skeletons – a child of around 5yrs and two adults, one with an intact pot by its feet. They were expecting to find many more "skellies".

I have had a great time over the last few summers and have learned a lot about how a dig is carried out and how finds are recorded and stored. Also that field archaeology is not a static science, and that people are trying to improve techniques all the time – by trial and error sometimes. It was also good to feel that in some very small way, I had contributed to uncovering part of York's distant past.



Victoria and I on Hungate

February 19th— Leeds City Museum 'Pharaoh - King of Egypt'

March 18th— Nunnington Hall

April 27th—Cannon Hall Museum, Barnsley

May 25-8 3D Excursion to Malta

June 24th—Sledmere House/ 40's Nostalgia Day

July 29th —Binchester Roman Fort

August 19th—Fort Paul and Hull and ER Museums

September 16th—Nostell Priory

October 14th—Morris/ Dobson Heritage Museum (hope I spelled it correctly)

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

Obituary— Peter Perry by Robert Morgan

I am sad to relay news that Peter passed away in January 2012 of a brain hemorrhage. This is Robert's obituary of him.

“Peter Perry came to archaeology late in life. A retired Police Inspector of the West Yorkshire Force, Peter became interested in the subject when his daughter Carol took up digging for a group in County Durham. With Carol's encouragement, Peter contacted 3D Archaeological Society and started attending the meetings which he enjoyed very much.

Peter loved to come out and help on the dig at Aldfield, but grew frustrated with the way his health was impeding him doing as much digging as he would have liked. However we encouraged him to do

some research about the site, which he took to with great enthusiasm, coming up with some very interesting pieces of information that I am sure will be of great help to the society when we eventually come to tell the story of early Aldfield. Peter moved away from Harrogate to be nearer his daughter, but always kept in touch with me and remained a member of the society, getting to meetings when he could. Peter attended Maxine's barbecue with his daughter last year who told me he had very much enjoyed being with us again.

Peter was a gentle giant of a man who loved being a member of the society and who I am sure will be greatly missed by all of us that knew him.”



Peter at Wharram Percy in
2010

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