

For info about
forthcoming events,
contact:

Robert Morgan
22 Hill Top Avenue
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 3BH

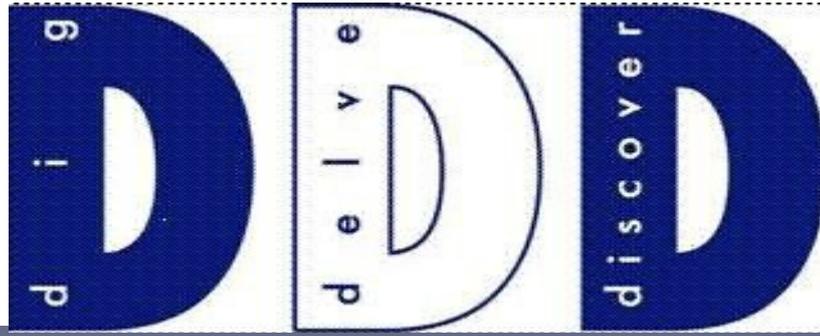
tel (01423) 522567

Mob 07940 777466

Items for newsletter to:
Janet Waite
Email:
janetwaite1@hotmail.co.uk

IN THIS ISSUE...

- What's in a name? 2
Scandinavians in
Kirkdale by
Janet Waite
- Egypt from a 3
balloon by
Angela
Millington
- At last! 3
Geophysics at
Alfield by
Angela
Millington
- The grave of a 4
Scythian King by
Elizabeth
Newby
- Adventures 5
with a metal
detector by
Steve Nelson
- Archaeology in 5
the news
- Forthcoming 6
trips



Dig This!

THE NEWSLETTER OF 3D ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Greetings! Welcome to April's newsletter.

The group has been busy since the last edition! There was a visit to Leeds City Museum in February to see the touring Egypt exhibition, and to Nunnington Hall near Helmsley in March, with passing calls at St Gregory's Minster and an unknown (to many of us) Roman Villa nearby. We have feasted on workhouse fodder, thanks to our last meeting's speaker and people have attended sessions on aerial photography and geophysics, and probably other subjects which I have forgotten to mention.

At Alfield our usual dig, events have gathered pace, and several members have had a most educational "hands on" day with Jon Kenny, geophys-ing our "smithy" field. Further details of the day, inside...

Meanwhile, here are a couple of photos of the "troops" at work.



Walking the walk



Measuring out

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- | | |
|---|---|
| * 19th April— talk on Grisethorpe Man with Nigel Melton | * 19th July—Yorkshire Dales Textile Mills. Talk |
| * 17th May— talk - Brickmaking in Bradford with Derek Barker | * August 16th— The Staffordshire Hoard. Talk |
| * 21st June—Human Burials In Shell Middens. Talk | |

Venue:

The Meeting Room,
Wetherspoons,
Parliament Street,
Harrogate

7pm for a 7.30pm start

What's in a name? Scandinavians in Kirkdale by Janet Waite

(Taken from "Scandinavian Culture in 11th Century Yorkshire" by Matthew Townend)



St Gregory's Minster

"Orm the son of Gamal bought St Gregory's minster when it was utterly ruined and collapsed and he had it rebuilt from the foundations in honour of Christ and St Gregory in the days of King Edward and in the days of Earl Tosti. And Haward made me and Brand the priest"

This is the striking inscription on the sundial in the porch of St Gregory's Minster, sheltering in a

small wooded valley near Kirbymoorside, which we visited in March. There are three names mentioned – Brand the priest, was most likely to have designed the dial and the learning behind it. Brandr was a common name in Viking Age Denmark and the Danelaw. Haward seems to have been the craftsman, and again was a common Scandinavian name. Orm and his father Gamal were

common names too, but as Patrons, are more easily identifiable through contemporary texts as being Scandinavian nobility and landowners in the area. (They are mentioned in the Domesday Book). So if you had a Scandinavian name in that time, did it mean you were a Scandinavian, or could English inhabitants have given their children fashionable Norse names, as happens now, to imitate the dominant heroes of the day?

"Orm the son of Gamal bought St Gregory's minster when it was utterly ruined and collapsed"

Anglo—Saxon naming practices

It seems very unlikely that naming practices were based on fashion – most were led by traditional practices, children being named after parents or close relatives. Many Anglo-Saxon names were dithemic e.g. God-wine, Aelf-red, and it was usual for names to include one of the elements of the family name (before surnames!) So a woman called

Wulfwaru might have children called Wulfmaer and Aelfwaru. People certainly did not name their sons after kings of the day! Interestingly, a survey has been completed on names in the Domesday Book, to compare the ratio of Old Norse names to Old English names. In Dorset the percentage ratio is 15:85, in Sussex 21:79, but in Yorkshire it is

70:30! There are even wider local variations – in Ryedale 29 names are recorded, and only 2 are certainly Old English. So our Kirkdale names are undoubtedly Norse because the local landowners were the Scandinavian elite.



The sundial

So why was the Kirkdale inscription in Old English, not Old Norse? There are four other inscriptions from 11th Century Yorkshire, commemorating actions of people with Norse names- at Aldborough, Great Edstone, Old Byland and St Mary's, York. The explanation seems to be in terms of function. Norse literacy in the Roman

alphabet did not start until the 11th century in Scandinavia, as before Christianity, they used runes. Old English and Norse were related quite closely, so speakers of the two languages would have been able to understand each other, more or less. However the Scandinavian elite were happy to continue in this country keeping the tradition of

Old English and Latin for written texts. We know that at Cnut's court, Norse oral tradition was prized, but administrative documents were in English or Latin. This would explain why our Kirkdale inscription is in Old English, not Norse. In St Gregory's Minster we see a place where Scandinavian, English and Latin traditions meet.

Scandinavian Oral tradition

Egypt from a balloon! By Angela Millington

I enjoyed my holiday in Egypt last year (just before the Revolution) and was determined to go back. I chose early February because it would ONLY be 75 to 80° – quite hot enough for me!

Robert tipped me off that another 'new' and hopefully undisturbed tomb had been discovered in the Valley of the Kings, just 100 yards from Tutankhamun's tomb. I had a fantastic morning at the Valley looking at other tombs but there was no sign of ANYONE digging, even though I was sure it was still the digging season.

(I did see a lot of diggers on the site behind the Colossus of Memnon, but perhaps they were Egyptians, maybe university students). I can only assume that the Antiquities Department of the Government is on hold until after the 'free elections' in April/May, or at least restrictions to foreigners. Our Egyptian guide didn't have anything nice to say about Zahi Hawass, and I didn't dare ask about the American Archaeologist Kent Weeks, who has been doing great work there for many years and currently working on KV5, an enormous tomb used for up to 30 of the

sons of Ramses II.

So I had a dilemma – I had promised Janet I would write something for 3D, and I couldn't report on anything new in the Valley of the Kings.



“Would I do it again?
Hmmm, well ...”

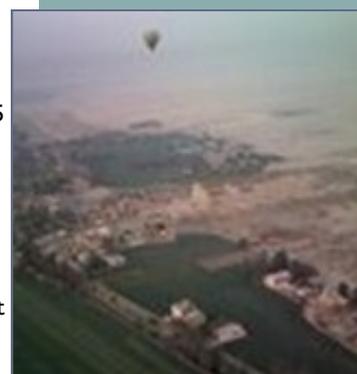
I had one more option – looking for lumps and bumps from the air in a balloon! So I signed on to go aloft one morning at dawn. We set off from our boat while it was still dark; drove down the road a couple of miles, then took a small boat (like a water taxi) across the Nile. We were served tea or coffee and a cake on this little boat, then onto another minibus for ten minutes to the site where the balloons were preparing for

flight. I had always thought that balloon fliers were slightly insane, and it didn't look any less scary as I stood next to the large wicker basket that was due to drift up to 2000 feet with me in it!

I needn't have worried – the weather was so calm, the flight was gentle, and it wasn't at all cold up there. The sight of dawn over the Nile was stunning and as we gently drifted round we got amazing

views of several excavated temples including Hapsetshut's, and the Colossus of Memnon. I think we were up there 45 to 55 minutes, but it was breathtaking and those of us who were nervous were very quickly reassured and confident thanks to the skill and ability of our charismatic 'pilot'. It cost £70 and I would highly recommend it to anyone else going to Luxor.

Would I do it again? Hmmm, well



At last – Geophysics at Aldfield ! By Angela Millington

On Friday the 30th March we finally achieved something we have wanted to do for a LONG time – get some Geophysics done on our Dig Site out at Aldfield. Under the expert supervision of Jon Kenny, we (Maxine, Angela, Eileen B-K, Janet, Kevin, Robert and John) undertook to try and cover the whole field that we have been allowed to dig and study by the very kind (and lucky for us!) interested landowners. We learnt such a lot that day, about how much we can find out about what lies up to a meter and a half below our feet, without the trowels even coming out of the cars! We also learnt how much more there was to it than we expected – one of the first things we did make use of our school maths!

We are ALL busy all day, measuring out, moving the tapes and stakes, recalculating, making notes, and walking up and down with the equipment. Everyone took turns with the various tasks. We are now all anxiously awaiting the results, after Jon has downloaded the statistics into his computer and printed off the results, the diagram of black and grey lines and splodges familiar to viewers of Time Team, which will suggest the ghostly remains of the old medieval village. (Hopefully!- Ed!)



Jon instructing the intrepid crew

The grave of a Scythian King by Elizabeth Newby

Up to the second Century B.C. the Scythians, a nomadic people, roamed the natural grasslands of southern Russia. They left no buildings to tell of their culture, no houses, no palaces, no temples. What we know of them and their civilisation has been gleaned from their burial grounds. In southern Russia, north of the Black Sea, the fantastic tombs of the royal Scythians are found. One such grave, not already plundered in antiquity, was discovered at Solokha.

On a hot summer's day in July, the President of the Imperial Archaeological Commission in Russia and his young son, were summoned by telegram to travel to Solokha by Professor Wesselovsky, an eminent orientalist and supervisor of the excavations of a barrow built over a Scythian chieftain.

The next morning after a night of thunder storms and rain they began their dig, whilst the young boy watched; fascinated. All day they laboured and their rewards were immense. Artefacts fashioned by the king's Greek prisoners were brought to the surface; and then

came the skeleton of the king himself, untouched for 24 centuries.



The Golden Comb of Solokha

Fantastic Treasures

It had been adorned in death in a magnificent multi-coloured silk cloak, sewn all over with golden plaques – 300 in all, each measuring about one square inch. As the cloak was carefully brought out of the earth, the brightly coloured silk faded and crumbled into dust, leaving the golden ornaments to survive in all their splendour. Weapons, gold and silver dishes and goblets, a bronze corslet of scales and a bronze helmet joined the heap of rich artefacts. Round the king's neck was a heavy twisted necklace of solid gold 10 inches in diameter – a masterpiece of the Greek jewellers' art. At the ends of the necklace were two lion heads with a Gordion knot in

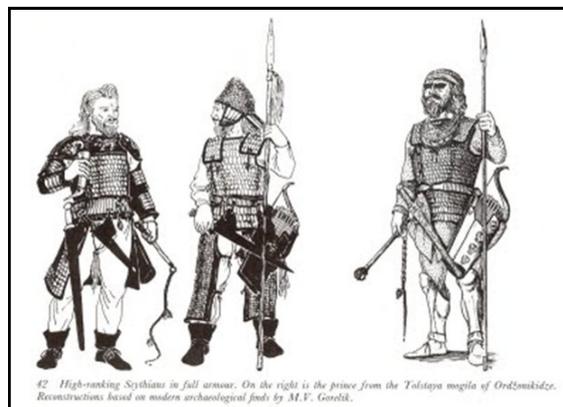
their mouths. The grave continued to give up the king's burial treasures until the archaeologists could work no more, and decided to rest and eat.

They left the young boy at the site hut, fascinated by the finds and held in thrall by the long-dead king. The grave was mostly empty of its precious contents but the boy took up a small trowel and began scraping carefully at the dark soil. Then his trowel hit something hard, then a glitter of gold! He brought to light a large, solid, square golden object with long spikes sticking down from an ornamental, carved upper section. It was a golden comb.

He called to his father, who came running with the rest of the team.

Indeed, it was the king's golden comb, the only one of its size and artistic quality in existence – now world famous as the "Golden Comb of Solokha. And the finder of this unique treasure was the young Count Alexis Bobrinskoy.

(Information taken from "The Golden Comb of Solokha", London Calling, 7th May 1953 – article written by Count Alexis Bobrinskoy).



42. High-ranking Scythians in full armour. On the right is the prince from the Tolstaya mogila of Ordzhonikidze. Reconstructions based on modern archaeological finds by M. F. Gerasim.

High ranking Scythians in full armour

Adventures with a metal detector by Steve Nelson

While out for a walk with my metal detector on a friends field, I picked up a weak signal in my headphones. I had set my machine to ignore small rusty nail size targets and all I had found so far were a few metal buttons and a very old Pepsi can so I ignored this signal and kept walking, but something told me to go back



I relocated the signal and removed a plug of earth running the detector coil over the hole produced a stronger signal so I dug down some more and then I noticed an oval piece of metal expecting another button I reached down to retrieve it, and then I noticed the unusual shape. At home I washed the mud off to reveal a fob seal- these were worn in the late 17th Century and through the 18th by gentlemen, either on a chain around their necks or on their wrists. When I gently cleaned the seal itself, I was shocked as to what was on it; a skull and cross bones above which was a crown with an orb and sceptre.

I was at York University the next day for my archaeology lecture so I took it in to show the Portable Antiques Finds Liaison Officer at the Yorkshire Museum. The fob is 18th century copper alloy and a photograph of the inscription has been sent to the British Museum. Hopefully we can find out who it belonged to. If anyone has any information about tracking the original owner I would be most grateful.



Fob seal

Archaeology in the news

Archaeologists in Trumpington, Cambridgeshire, have uncovered a bed on which the body of a young Anglo-Saxon woman has lain for more than 1,300 years, a regal gold and garnet cross on her chest. Forensic work on the first woman's bones suggests she was about 16, with no obvious explanation for her early death. The field where she lay, now being developed for housing, hid a previously unknown Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Although she is likely to have been a Christian, buried with the beautiful cross stitched into place on her gown, she was buried according to ancient pagan tradition with some treasured possessions including an iron knife, a chain hanging from her belt and some glass beads, which were probably originally in a purse that has rotted away.

Sam Lucy, an Anglo-Saxon expert from Newnham College Cambridge, who helped excavate the site, said that a small group of bed burials have been discovered, all believed to be of women, all from the same region and the same late 7th century date. Lucy said the beds may well have been the ones the women used in life, as they are all believed to be pieces of real furniture, not made especially for a funeral ceremony. At Trumpington the evidence suggests the bed was lowered first into the ground, and then the body, uncoffined, laid on it.

The cross is going through a treasure valuation and inquest process, but the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge hopes to acquire and display it.



The Trumpington Cross

Forthcoming 3D trips

VOLUME 6
ISSUE 3

APRIL 2012

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 Paull 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/>



Items for newsletter to:
Janet Waite
Email:
janetwaite1@hotmail.co.uk
Or snail mail
61 Bilton Grove Ave
Harrogate
HG1 4HQ

One for the ladies going to Malta!