

For info about  
forthcoming events,  
contact:

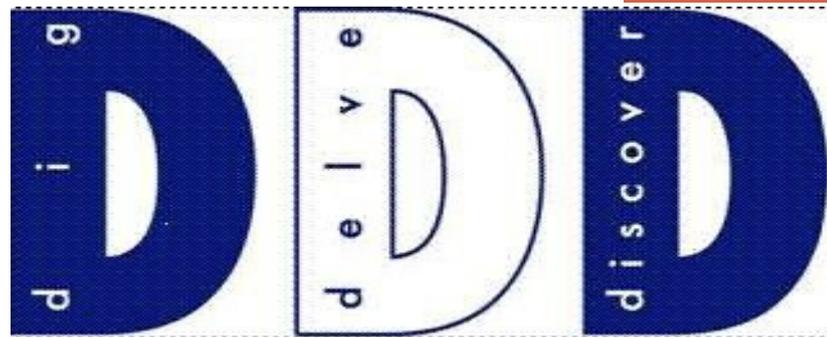
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The

## Dig This!

### The Newsletter of 3D Archaeological Society

June already! Well, hopefully after the soggiest Spring most people can remember, we will be able to get trowels dirty again, and be able to continue our 3D adventures without having to wear winter woolies.

Talking of 3D adventures, the Malta trip will have finished, and I am looking forward to an article next time on it! Also, having received the results of the geophysics at Aldfield, we now have possible new areas to investigate. More on this later, when the full report comes out.

Meanwhile, there was a riveting talk on brick making in Bradford at May's meeting by Derek Barker. He hopes there will be people interested enough to do a bit of local investigation, to find out about bricks and brickworks in this area from bygone days. Robert has information from Derek's presentation of some possible past locations, so if you're interested, let Robert know. Thought I'd put in a photo, which I took recently, to "whet your appetites", though you may not find such fancy brickwork around here!



Tudor brick chimneys at Hampton Court

### Forthcoming events

- |                                                                     |                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * 21st June—Human Burials In Shell Middens. Talk by Emily Hellewell | * August 16th— The Staffordshire Hoard. Talk                                         |
| * 9th July—Yorkshire Dales Textile Mills. Talk                      | * 20th September- The Sutton Hoo Ship Burials. What Happened After The Big Dig. Talk |

Venue:  
The Meeting Room,  
Wetherspoons,  
Parliament Street,  
Harrogate

7pm for a 7.30pm start

### Information from “The Testimony of the Spade” by Geoffrey Bibby, Collins, 1957.



Drawing of inscription on large horn  
(by J. R. Paulli, 1734)

It was a summer's day in 1639: the place Gallehus, West Jutland. Christian IV was King of Denmark and Duke of Schleswig.

Three young girls from the village of Österby were on their way to Tönder to sell the lace they had made that week. They had nearly reached the hamlet of Gallehus when Kirsten Svendsdatter stumbled over what she thought was the root of a tree by the roadside. Annoyed at the obstruction, she picked up a stick and gave it a blow. The “root” gave out the sound of metal. Kirsten decided to investigate.

By scraping and pulling she drew from the ground a heavy, curved metal horn over 2 1/2 feet long – it glittered! A rinse in a nearby stream, with the help of her friends, who had returned to her cries, discovered the horn was made of a yellow metal. It was agreed that it was probably a brass instrument lost by a travelling player.

At the end of the day, Kirsten took it home. It was made up of thick rings fitted one over the other – the whole over an inner shell. Her foster parents had also agreed it was brass and during the next week the rings were separated and became playthings of the village children.

The following week, Kirsten and her friends returned to Tönder and she took one of the rings to the wife of her lace dealer, Marina Thomsen. Mistress Thomsen by chance, had her brother staying with her and he suggested taking the ring to a goldsmith as he considered the metal too soft to be brass. It was pronounced to be virgin gold!

The Burghers of Tönder decided that as it was treasure trove, it belonged to the King. Kirsten, as the finder, was honoured by a journey in a fine coach, to present her find to the King. The King was away, so the horn was taken by a clerk, who issued her a receipt and forgot about it! The King soon heard about it, and gave it to his son, Crown Prince Frederick, who used it for the drinking of toasts! On the death of the Prince, the horn returned to the King who placed it in the Royal Treasury.

Kirsten was urged to write to the King to remind him that she had found the horn. Tradition has it that she was offered anything she wanted as a reward – she chose a red silk skirt!



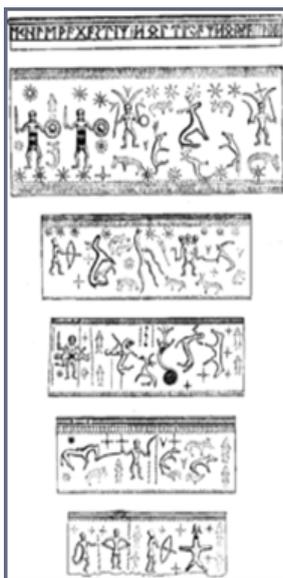
## History repeats itself!

On Wednesday 21st April 1734, Erik Lasson was farming his half- holding north of Gallehus .He found another larger horn, less than a spade's depth underground – larger than the first, but incomplete.

The horn was verified as gold by a goldsmith and shown to the lord of the manor, Count Schackenburg, who contacted the royal court. In due course, after digging in the area of the second horn, and not finding the missing portion, the horn was again presented to the King, who had both horns displayed in the Cabinet of Antiquities in the royal library in Copenhagen. Anyone could view the golden treasures for a 2 Daler entrance fee. Erik Lasson was rewarded with a sum equaling £20, but died three weeks later. For 68 years they were on exhibition, and various copies were made. One was of ivory for a Russian nobleman, and plaster casts were made – one for a wealthy German, and one for Cardinal Borgia in Rome.

Then, on 5th May 1802, it was discovered that the door to the display room was open, the cabinet smashed, and the horns gone! Several factors, including police inefficiency, contributed to months going by without any success in discovering the whereabouts of the horns.

Just short of a year later, news leaked out about the sudden wealth of Niels Heindrich, a known criminal. A raid was made on his home and shop, after he had been selling gold items. Five pounds of raw gold was found on his premises and after lengthy cross-examination, he confessed. With the use of a false key, he had gained entry and stolen the horns. He told how he had melted them both down, and cast the gold into jewellery and counterfeit East Indian gold coins. He had disposed of 10 pounds of pure gold. A jail sentence of 37 years followed, and after release, he died in poverty. The horns were gone. The remaining 5 pounds of gold was sent to the Royal Mint, along with any items he had made. The whole was smelted together, with other national stock, so that no piece of the horns is left except for two reproductions in gilded silver which were presented to the National Museum in Copenhagen by King Frederick VII, where they are to this day.



Inscription on small horn

## MORAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FOR GIRLS; PUNISHMENT OR PHILANTHROPY?

By John Errington

In 1861 an Act of Parliament established Industrial Schools, Magistrates could now commit to these schools orphans, children found to be destitute, begging, vagrant, frequenting with reputed thieves, out of parental control, first offenders or with a parent in gaol. They received elementary education and were taught a trade, often domestic service, which in this period was the second biggest source of employment after agriculture. Thanks to Charles Dickens we tend to view Victorian institutions as universally harsh and punitive but a recent WEA project that I participated in, which utilised school log books as a source for social history, indicates that the experience of girls in one of these institutions in Leeds at the end of the 19th Century was apparently more positive than we may expect.

There were a number of initiatives developed in Leeds for disadvantaged children and young people including “ragged schools” and ‘Moral and Industrial Training Schools’ which were separate from the Workhouse to break the cycle of ‘family pauperism’

Ironically in a period before universal elementary education, [which was only implemented in 1870], it was young offenders who were the only ones receiving an enforced education, 241 children [including 40 girls] were in the Leeds Gaol school in 1851. The ragged schools had operated as virtual missions providing meals, clothing and even lodgings when required, in addition to an elementary education. With some children now being compulsorily resident in the industrial school the atmosphere became more penal, with an emphasis upon continuous labour. The overall experience must have remained positive however as local children were still attending voluntarily!

### Reform

By the end of the century there was a system of Reformatory Schools for the boys and girls convicted of crimes and formerly held in the gaol. The Industrial schools were for those judged by the magistrates to be neglected and on the fringes of crime. It was the log book of a girls industrial school based in Thorp Arch, near Wetherby, that I reviewed as a part of my course. I reviewed the period 1899 to 1912 as there is a 100 year embargo on the records of these schools, unlike conventional school records which are open after a much shorter period.

This was a residential school drawing pupils from all over the country, for example the log reports regular visits being made to the school to check on the progress of the ‘London children’. The school provided a conventional elementary education to the age of 15 years, in line with practice at that time. It was recorded in 1902 that from standard 3 onwards, the children were in school half time and “ 7 girls were taken out of school for full time industrial training being over 15 years of age”. There was a night school too, evidenced by an entry that these were temporarily suspended in 1902 after 5 girls had absconded, a feature of residential care which continues to this day! Some special lessons were evidently provided for the part timers on occasions, for example “standards 4 and 5 were brought in for an extra session to hear a lesson on alcoholic drinks” [ the log book failed to record if this was on the dangers of drink or how to select a bottle of good quality wine!] On another occasion a teacher provided a talk on her recent visit to Algiers.

The 1899 inspection report shows reasonable standards being achieved in reading writing and arithmetic, for example in reading-standard 1-92%, standard 2- 81% and standard 3- 84% . The duration of education up to 15 years together, with the standards being achieved, seems to demonstrate that this was not a second rate educational experience.

### A “genteel lifestyle”

The school was not removed from the problems of the era, particularly regarding health issues. On one occasion it is reported that 10 girls had to be isolated for having dirty heads and in 1911 there was a ringworm epidemic which resulted in 9 girls having to go into a sanatorium.

There are many more positive incidents recorded, suggesting an almost genteel life style. There are clear rewards for high achievements, for example in the summer of each year there is an entry reporting “Good conduct girls enjoyed a day excursion to Scarborough “. High achievers were also taken out for afternoon tea at local houses as a reward. Object lessons were taken in the school grounds, for instance a lesson on leaves, taken in the orchard. Half days were allowed for picking wild fruit and in 1904 the girls attended a local hunt meeting. There were regular sessions timetabled for letter writing to friends and family.

Accepting that this project gave a brief glimpse at the happenings at an industrial school at the turn of the twentieth century, this still contrasts favourably with the popular impression of life for a young offender in a Victorian/ Edwardian institution. It contrasts with my own brief experience of working in the comparable institutions of the 1980s when the vision and idealism evident in the Edwardian log book had long evaporated!

With thanks to WEA, John Brooke, Leeds City Archives and W.B. Stephens for background information on the development of educational provision included in ‘A History of Modern Leeds’- Manchester University Press (1980)

## A Puzzle from the Past—The Voynich Manuscript by J. Waite

Whilst idly wandering around archaeological internet sites recently, I came across an article on the Voynich Manuscript, which gave me food for thought, and which I thought I would share with you.

The Voynich Manuscript (VM) was named after the Polish bookseller who acquired it in 1912. It is thought to have been written somewhere in Europe in the 13th Century – its origin is a hotly debated as the meaning of the strange pictures and indecipherable text. It is described as a magical or scientific text; nearly every page contains botanical, figurative, and scientific drawings of lively character, drawn in green, brown, yellow, blue, and red ink. The manuscript is small, seven by ten inches, but thick, nearly 235 pages. It is written in an unknown script of which there is no known other instance in the world. 'The Most Mysterious Manuscript in the World' is either an ingenious hoax or an unbreakable code.

It has an alphabet, but an alphabet variously reckoned to have from nineteen to twenty-eight letters, none of which bear any relationship to any English or European letters. Apparently, Voynich wanted to have the mysterious manuscript deciphered and provided photographic copies to a number of experts. However, despite the efforts of many well-known cryptologists and scholars, the book remains unread.



Picture from the "Biological" section

It is abundantly illustrated with crude coloured drawings of; unidentified plants, what seem to be herbal recipes, tiny naked women frolicking in bathtubs connected by intricate plumbing looking more like anatomical parts than hydraulic contraptions, mysterious charts in which some have seem astronomical objects seen through a telescope and charts into which you may see a strange calendar of zodiacal signs, populated by tiny naked people in rubbish bins. Odd, it certainly is!

The contents of the Manuscript are divided up into 5 categories:

- The first and largest section contains 130 pages of plant drawings with text, and is called the Botanical division.
- The second contains 26 pages of drawings, obviously astrological and astronomical in nature.
- The third section contains 4 pages of text and 28 drawings, which would appear to be biological in nature.
- The fourth division contains 34 pages of drawings, which are pharmaceutical in nature.
- \* The last section of the Manuscript contains 23 pages of text arranged in short paragraphs, each beginning with a star. The last page (the 24th of this division) contains the Key only.



Picture from the Botanical section

Historically, the VM first appeared in 1586 at the court of Rudolph II of Bohemia, who was one of the most eccentric European monarchs of that or any other period. Rudolph collected dwarfs and had a regiment of giants in his army. He was surrounded by astrologers, and he was fascinated by games, codes and music. To Rudolph's court came an unknown person who sold this manuscript to the king for three hundred gold ducats, which, translated into modern money, is about fourteen thousand dollars. This is an astonishing amount of money to have paid for a manuscript at that time, which indicated that the Emperor must have been highly impressed by it. Accompanying the manuscript was a letter that stated that it was the work of the Englishman Roger Bacon, who lived in the thirteenth century and who was a noted astronomer.

Over the years, many academics have tried to translate the work. Some believe it does have a structure yet to be discovered e.g "pig latin", others surmise that it is the equivalent of "talking in tongues". Yet other, more recent academics have suggested that it was written by a young Leonardo da Vinci, in some form of mirror writing.

The truth is that nobody has yet been able to produce a complete translation of the VM, so for now, sitting patiently in Yale University, it remains one of antiquities most puzzling pieces of text .

### Archaeology in the news -

#### There's a moos loos about this hoos!

It is well known that mice travel wherever humans do, to scavenge off the titbits we scatter in our wake. However, for the first time, new research published in BioMed Central's open access journal BMC "Evolutionary Biology" has shown how evolutionary techniques on modern day and ancestral mouse mitochondrial DNA, show that the timeline of mouse colonization matches that of Viking invasion.

Vikings in the 8th -10th centuries left Denmark and travelled across to the Northern parts of our isles, Iceland, Newfoundland and Greenland. While they

intentionally took with them domestic animals such as horses, sheep, goats and chickens they also inadvertently carried pest species, including mice.

A multinational team of researchers have managed to construct a mouse time line using the DNA of modern mice and those from nine archaeological sites in Scandinavia. Analysis of mouse mitochondrial DNA showed that house mice (*M. m. domesticus*) hitched a lift with the Vikings, in the early 10th century, into Iceland, and from there to Greenland. Icelandic mice still contain the genetic fingerprint of their seafaring ancestors, but mice on

Greenland have been replaced by Danish mice, brought over by a more recent wave of European colonizers. Dr. Eleanor Jones (affiliated with the University of York and Uppsala University) explained, "Human settlement history over the last 1000 years is reflected in the genetic sequence of mouse mitochondrial DNA. We can match the pattern of human populations to that of the house mice."

So next time you hear a rustling on that shelf full of carrier bags, beware! It could be the descendant of a Viking mouse!



Marauding mouse!

## LOOKING BACK



## AT HUNGATE

This new exhibition lets you explore some of the diverse collection of artefacts discovered during the five-year excavation of Hungate in York and reveals the stories of the people who lived there from Roman times to the early 20th century.

- \* Find out how timbers from an Anglo-Saxon ship were remade into the cellar of a Viking-Age house.
- \* Examine beautifully crafted pots depicting the faces of humans and images of animals from York's medieval past.
- \* Explore how people lived in Hungate's Victorian streets and houses, condemned as slum districts.

Visit DIG, St Saviour's Church, St Saviourgate, York.

### Amazing Artefacts!

These gold earrings date from the Early Bronze Age (c. 2400-2100 BC) and were found in a burial in Barrow 4a at Radley in Oxfordshire.

This pair of thin sheet gold 'Basket Earrings' are decorated with incised lines.

The ornaments are cylinder shaped with a projecting tongue and are thought to have been worn wrapped around the ear,

rather than through it. Alternately, they may have been worn as hair ornaments. Only seven other pairs of earrings such as these are known from Britain, and they form one of the earliest examples of metalworking known from the region.

These items were donated to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford by Mr W. Docker-Drysdale in 1944.



The Radley Earrings

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Issue 4

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## FORTHCOMING 3D TRIPS

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

July 29th —Binchester Roman Fort/ Durham Light Infantry Museum

August 19th—Fort Paull and Hull and ER Museums

September 16th—Nostell Priory

October 14th—Morris Dobson Heritage Museum

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

### More dates for your diary!

Several members of the group also have their “fingers in other pies” and as such, tell us about other meetings and events that we budding archaeologists/ historians may be interested in. As there are a few things coming up, I thought I would include them in the magazine, for your information. Do let me know if you have anything for inclusion in future issues!

- \* 9/10 June— Ryedale Folk Museum, multi-period and living History weekend
- \* 25 June– 1st July Chalke Valley History Festival . “Britain’s biggest festival devoted just to History”. Salisbury.
- \* 27th October—Mediaeval Dales Day School , Grassington. Series of talks £15.  
<http://ydlrt.co.uk>



Ryedale Folk Museum



Items for newsletter to:  
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