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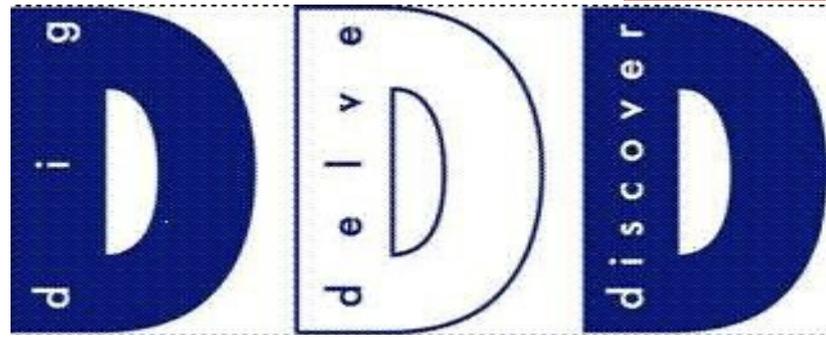
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## Dig This!

The Newsletter of 3D Archaeological Society

Hello again, and welcome to August's newsletter.

Following the account of the Malta trip, I hope that people will be inspired by their summer adventures, to pick up a pen (or attack a keyboard) and let us all know what you have been up to—in an archaeological sense anyway.

Steve has been back to Orkney and gives a fascinating insight into Scapa Flow. This also gives me a good excuse to put one of my favourite Orkney photos on the cover of this newsletter!

Also, three of us from 3D had a three day trip into the Dales to dig on an Iron Age/Romano British site, and I recount our travails .

Elizabeth has not, I believe, been to Easter Island but has written a super piece again.

Enjoy!



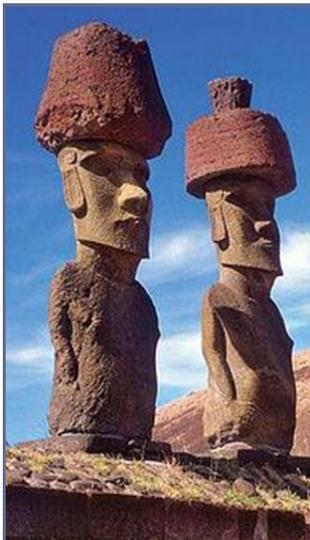
Ring of Brodgar at sunset (by Robert)

### Forthcoming talks

- \* August 16th— The Staffordshire Hoard. Talk
  - \* 20th September- The Sutton Hoo Ship Burials. What Happened After The Big Dig. Talk
- Future talks to be announced.

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

7pm for a 7.30pm start



Statues with "topknots"

## EASTER ISLAND by Elizabeth Newby

In 1722 on Easter Day, the Dutch explorer Roggeveen, discovered an island in the South Pacific with a moon-like landscape of long dead volcanoes where grass and ferns covered the treeless craters. It was peopled by a strange race of naked and tattooed natives, some of whom had their ears elongated because of ornamental discs inserted into the lobes. They were a friendly people, both tribes – "long ears" and "short ears". These people shared their island with strange stone

giants!

The Norwegian explorer and anthropologist Dr Thor Heyerdahl visited Easter Island in 1955-6 to unravel the mystery of the people and the famous stone giants. He discovered from the tribal memories of the natives that in the past the "long ears" had been the ruling class, and dominated the "short ears". Between them they had carved and placed the stone giants all over the island.

However, there came a time in the region of 300 years ago

when the "short ears" rebelled. The "long ears" fled to an island peninsula where they defended themselves by digging a huge ditch which they filled with burning firewood – to protect themselves behind a wall of fire. The defences went horribly wrong and the "long Ears" perished by fire and massacre – except for one survivor – a man called Ororoia. "

**"They went of themselves!"**

Dr. Heyerdahl discovered that the 20th century Mayor of Easter Island was one of the descendants of that man. From then on, the short ears" forgot the statues and their old ways.

Rano Raraku was the volcanic mountain where the statues had been quarried. Finished and unfinished giants – more than 150 – in all stages, lay or stood in the deserted quarry. Thirty feet was the most common length of these stone

men- the largest unfinished giant was 69 feet long! All the carvings were to the same pattern – the same expression, the same peculiar long ears.

Over time, the centre of the extinct volcano had become a lake. A cavalcade of stone men seemed to have been arrested in their march from the quarry, up the mountainside and over the lip of the crater,

like an army of robots!

When Dr. Heyerdahl and his party excavated these statues they discovered that they were not just the flat-headed giants he was familiar with, but their bodies went down into the earth – down to their hips – their long arms ending in long thin fingers with enormous curved nails.



Heyerdahl's men

### A mystery!

The biggest mystery was how the statues had arrived at their positions all over Easter Island, where metal was unknown, the island practically treeless, and the wheel then unknown in Polynesia. Many of the statues wore stone "hats" (Pukao, meaning "topknot") carved from a reddish stone from another quarry on the opposite side of the island. These "topknots" weighed from 2 to 10 tons; then it appeared that the giant at 50 tons, with his "topknot"

of 10 tons was raised up 12 feet and erected on a stone platform (Ahu).

By the time Dr Heyerdahl arrived, all the statues had fallen or been pulled down in about 1840 by cannibal invaders. The mystery of the carving, polishing and transportation of the stone giants remained unexplained and completely baffled Dr Heyerdahl and his engineers.

In wonderment he asked a

native shepherd, "Leonardo, you are a practical man – can you tell me how these giants could have been carried about I old times?"

"They went of themselves", Leonardo replied!

Information from "Aku-Aku" by Dr Thor Heyerdahl (George Allen & Unwin, 1958)

## Back to Orkney – Scapa Flow by Steve Nelson

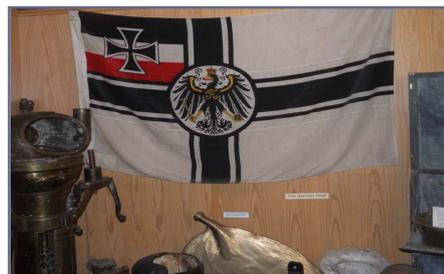
After the 2011 3D tour of the Orkneys I wanted to go back a.s.a.p. We have a time share near Aviemore in the Highlands, so we decided to tag an extra week on our holiday and go to Orkney.

We drove up to St Giles a three hour drive, where we caught the ferry.

We sailed into Scapa Flow and on to St Margaret's then drove across to the B+B at Kirkwall. It was ironic that we arrived via Scapa Flow, as this was one of the "must visit" places on this trip. I have an

interest in anything to do with the Great War and it was Scapa Flow where the German fleet was anchored after the Armistice.

The name Scapa comes from the Norse. Skalpaflooi—"bay of the long isthmus". It has been the northern anchorage of the Royal Navy since 1904. At the outbreak of World War I, the defences at Scapa were added to with shore artillery and old merchant ships were sunk in the narrows to act as blockships to stop U-Boat attacks. The first successful landing of an



German ensign

aircraft onto a moving ship was carried out at Scapa on 2nd August 1917. Squadron Commander Edwin Harris Dunning landed a Sopwith Pup fighter on to the deck of HMS Furious; unfortunately his second attempt ended in disaster and he was killed.

## Armistice

The Armistice signed on November 11th was basically a cease fire agreement until peace terms were agreed. The ships of the mighty German fleet, with no usable weapons on board and manned by skeleton crews, sat at anchor in Scapa and waited for news, watched over by the Royal Navy.

A plan was hatched by the Germans to scuttle the fleet to stop the Royal Navy taking control in the event of renewed hostilities; conspiracy theories

suggest that orders came from Berlin that if a peace treaty was signed, on no account were the allied powers to gain control of the German Navy.

A copy of the Daily Telegraph dated 16th June 1919 was delivered to the German flagship on the 20th June four days late. It stated that unless Germany signed the peace agreement hostilities would resume on 21st June, the deadline had been extended to the 23rd of June. On the morning of the 21st June 1919 the British fleet left Scapa for

manoeuvres in the North Sea.

Expecting his ships to be seized, the German Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter gave the coded command, and the German crews opened sea hatches and scuttled their ships. Some German sailors were shot by British Royal marines who believed that the sailors in the lifeboats had hostile intentions; one German naval officer was shot in the head while waving a white flag.

Some of the wrecks were salvaged for scrap by Mr. Ernest Cox in 1926. They raised 45 of the 52 scuttled ships. Seven remain on the bottom of Scapa Flow providing a refuge for marine life and visits by recreational divers.

The wrecks are the only place on the Planet where steel not contaminated by radiation after the nuclear tests in the 1950's can be obtained- a piece of which was used in instruments by NASA so a small piece of the Kon has been into space!

During WW2 Scapa was used

again as a base for the Royal Navy; the most dramatic episode was on 14 October 1939 when a German submarine U47 penetrated the anti-submarine defences and sunk the battleship HMS Royal Oak. It was commanded by Gunther Prien who became known as "The Bull of Scapa Flow". This caused the Admiralty to rethink its defences; booms and anti-sub nets were deployed and more old scrap ships were added to the ones sunk at the beginning of WWI to act as block ships, their rusting hulks still stand guard to this day.

The first German air raid of WW2 was carried out at Scapa, this led to the first civilian death by air raid in WW2. Italian POW's were put to work building the Churchill Barriers. These are used as causeways between the smaller islands. They also converted an old Nissan hut into a beautiful chapel and some of the POW's stayed on after the war, to finish the project.

Scapa Flow is as much a part of Orkney's rich heritage as its standing stones and tombs.

[www.scapafloowrecks.com/](http://www.scapafloowrecks.com/) an excellent web site about Scapa Flow.



Anti-submarine net

## Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust Dig 2012 by Janet

Wanting to experience a different era of dig to Aldfield, in early July, Victoria, Maxine and myself headed up past Grassington to join the YDLRT dig at Chapel House Wood. This dig has been on-going for a couple of weeks in Summer since 2008, with settlement remains and field systems, about 200m up a hillside overlooking the River Wharfe. It's aim...

*"The project builds on preliminary surveys by Dr Arthur Raistrick in the mid-1960s and Stuart Ainsworth in the 1970s; sherds of Samian pottery*

*collected from mole-hills prompted Raistrick to classify the Chapel House Wood settlement as a Romano-British hut circle with enclosures....Over 70 years ago Dr Raistrick produced the first survey of evidence for Iron Age settlement in the area (Raistrick 1937), but we still lack further work to refine this preliminary interpretation. Within a three-mile radius of Chapel House Wood a range of settlement types has been recorded, including isolated and grouped hut-circles set within small fields, blocks of co-axial field systems, enclosed*

*settlements and complexes with multiple platforms suggesting the presence of both stone and timber buildings (Horne and Macleod 2001)."*

(Martlew, R. 2010. The Chapel House Wood Landscape Project, Kilnsey, North Yorkshire. Yorkshire Archaeological Society Prehistory Research Section Bulletin 47, 97 – 101.)

Dr. Martlew at this stage did not know if the tumble of stone was landslip or had been part of a structure.



Maxine, Janet and Victoria

**Day one** – we were dropped off in a lay-by, awaiting Dr. Roger Martlew to take us up to the site. Fortunately he had a battered but spacious Land Rover into which we deposited our overnight bags, before heading up the hillside (puff, pant) to begin work.

First, we had a guided tour of the surrounding area and site, where the remains of hut circles were evident. Previous digs had also revealed a

"burial" with human bone, and some kind of kiln. To our eternal gratitude, there was a cover over the dig area, a proper tent to take cover in during inclement weather, and a portalo! With toilet roll!

First job of every day was backfilling the hut circle structure uncovered last year for half an hour, and boy, was there a lot of soil and rock to shift!

We then de-turfed the areas

already indicated, along with about 12 other regular diggers, then began trowelling. After a much enjoyed lunch, it was back to work again. What were we uncovering? Lots of stone – with the odd animal tooth!

We downed tools at 4ish and got a lift off Roger to Kettlewell Youth Hostel, and a welcome shower and rest, before heading out on the town to find some pub grub. Fab!

### We soldier on!

**Day 2** After a gargantuan breakfast, and clutching our packed lunches, we were met by Roger at the Hostel, who ferried us back for our second day on the dig. Not too aching or bruised, we trudged (well Victoria bounced) back up the hill to start again with back filling. We were sure Roger's watch was broken because 30 mins felt like an eternity! Still, we had made some inroads into the spoil heap. It was a pretty drizzly day, and we were digging in the open, however dressed with all the layers of the Michelin man, we managed to keep warm. We had to trowel all stones bigger

than a couple of inches long and leave them in situ – and there were HUNDREDS. It was painstaking work, but there were definitely signs of burnt stone among the natural. Roger looked at the site from all angles—was it a manmade feature, or not?

**Day 3** and the sun shone, though my shins were bruised and my body protested at having to haul itself back up the hillside to work again! Today we had a go at using the dumpy level and Victoria and Maxine became proficient at triangulation and recording. This was beginning to feel like a normal way to spend a day!

A cloud of midges descended around mid-morning and despite the lung-choking insect repellent we had administered, proceeded to eat us alive for a couple of hours. I still have the bites to prove it!

We said our farewells at the end of the day, to be collected for a rejuvenating pint at the local, before heading back to clean clothes and civilisation.

Did I enjoy it? You bet! I have already spotted where I would like to dig next year; Binchester Roman Fort, which we saw on the last 3D day out. Care to join me?



Covered trenches-Luxury!

## Archaeology in the News

### British Museum sends priceless objects on tour

If you are on holiday in the UK this summer, keep an eye open for some of the British Museum's best artefacts on loan to a museum near you!

The Museum is funding the touring exhibits through the Art Fund museum prize, which it won through the successful "A History of the World in 100 Objects" programmes. Coming at a time of astronomical cuts to local museum services, this is a welcome move. Some objects are being sent to places which have a resonance with their existence, for example, the 13,000 year old carved ivory tusk of a swimming reindeer, is going to Cresswell Crags in Derbyshire, where ice age inhabitants were making similar contemporary carvings. The 4th Century silver Mildenhall Great Dish is going to Ipswich, near to where it was found. Others are simply going to places where nothing as wonderful is likely to be seen. A small Egyptian bronze cat 2,500 years old( known as the Gayer -Anderson cat, after it's donor) is going to Lerwick .

The first of the loans, a 2000 year old bronze of Heracles, the founder of the Olympic games, went to the De Warr Pavilion in Bexhill, Sussex in June.

( The Guardian -Tuesday 12 June 2012)



The Mildenhall Great Dish



The Gayer-Anderson Egyptian Cat

## It's da jokes, folks!

Some tourists in the Natural History Museum are looking at the dinosaur bones. One of them says to the guard, 'Can you tell me how old these bones are?' 'Three million and four years and six months,' says the guard. 'Good heavens,' says the tourist. 'How do you work out the age so precisely?' 'Well,' the guard answers, 'they were three million years old when I first started working here. And that was about four and a half years ago.'

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. One to change it while the other two argue about how old the old one is!

How did the ancient Romans cut their hair?

Answer: With a pair of Caesars.  
BOOM BOOM !!



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## FORTHCOMING 3D TRIPS

August 19th—Fort Paull and Hull and ER Museums

September 16th—Nostell Priory

October 14th—Morris Dobson Heritage Museum

...and they're destroying the  
countryside!



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

### Book preview -“Le Temps Viendra” by Sarah Morris

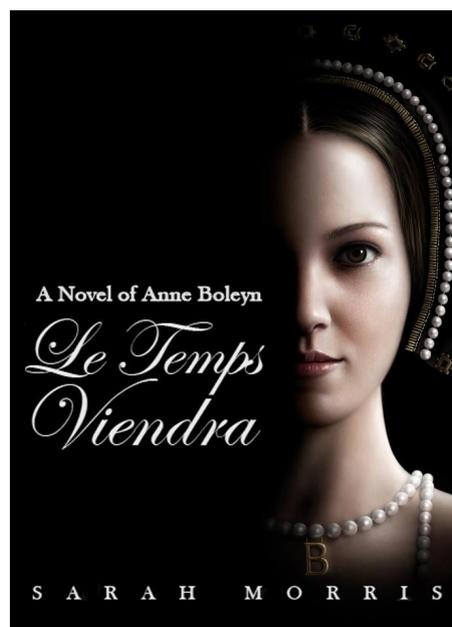
If like me, you are a lover of historical fiction, I would like to recommend a book due out in September . It is a first novel by a new writer known to me, and features the life of a modern young woman who finds her destiny closely interwoven with that of Ann Boleyn. I have read the first chapter, and it is similar in style to that of Alison Weir, (historian and novelist) and very gripping!

Sarah has undertaken months of research, to be as accurate as possible in her portrayal of Anne.

To find out more, the website is  
<http://www.anneboleynbook.co.uk/>

And if interested, you can order direct from the publisher, in book or Kindle format.

[www.spartan-publishing.com](http://www.spartan-publishing.com)



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