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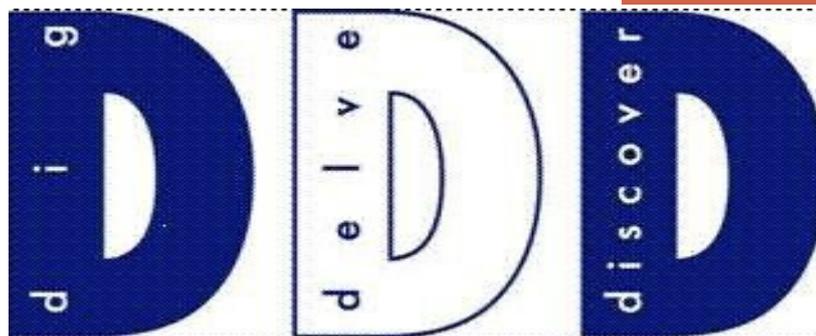
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## Dig This!

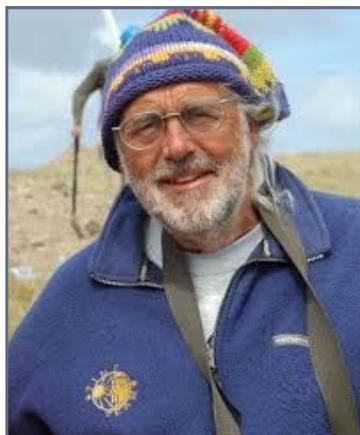
### The Newsletter of 3D Archaeological Society

Welcome to July's newsletter.

It is with great sadness that we all learned of the sudden death of Professor Mick Aston at the end of last month. To many people, myself included, he was the man who inspired ordinary people to take up a trowel and get digging. His academic rigour ( he wouldn't ever confirm something as definite, even for the cameras) coupled with a way of explaining what can be complicated science, in laymen's terms, opened up to many the feeling that archaeology was not just for people with beards and elbow patches in Academia. It was about enthusing people to find out about the past for themselves.

On *Time Team* he was an essential contributor, and the programme showed too readily, the gap he left behind ,when he left in disgust at the "dumbing down" of the series. I met him last year, and he spoke of the contempt with which Channel 4 held the "interested older viewer" ,in trying to make the programme attractive to the under 25 demographic.

So, I dedicate this issue of our newsletter to Mick's memory, and know that he would be delighted that we " keen amateur archaeologists" are "doing it for ourselves".



## Forthcoming events

July 18th- Janis & Maxine's  
"Orkney by small plane & small  
boat" trip. Talk.

August 15th- Richard  
Thomason "Hospitality at  
Kirkstall Abbey in the Later  
Middle Ages" Talk.

September 19th- Steve Ashby  
"The Hairy Vikings - Viking-Age  
Personal Appearance &  
Identity" Talk.

October 17th- Dr Aleksadra  
McClain "Cross slab grave  
monuments in medieval  
Yorkshire: the project and its  
findings" Talk.

November 21st- Rebecca  
Goulding "C18th\_ C20th  
Shooting Landscapes Of  
Nidderdale" Talk.

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

7pm for a 7.30pm start

Raffle prizes welcome!

## Do Archaeologists Care about Twentieth Century Artefacts? By Steve Nelson

Is the professional archaeologist an endangered species?

We have access to a static caravan at Reighton Sands near Filey. I spend most of my time on the beach fossil hunting or metal detecting. The footpath to the beach takes me past various forms of World War II defence structures and over the years the winter storms and rough seas have taken their toll on the pillboxes and concrete tank traps.



On a fossil hunt near Hornsea, I noticed a group of people with tape measures and a dumpy level near a pillbox that had fallen off the cliff onto the beach. The Holderness coast is one of the fastest eroding coastlines in the UK, which makes for great fossil hunts, so I presumed that these people were recording the erosion.

Two days later I was on Reighton beach metal detecting, when I noticed two of the group near another pillbox. One of the gentlemen

approached me to ask if I had found anything and we got talking. They were members of the Pillbox Study Group; he explained that WW2 defence structures are one of the fastest disappearing archaeology sites in the UK, and that a majority of archaeologists think that archaeology ended at the start of the 20th Century!

### How old does an artefact have to be, to be saved?

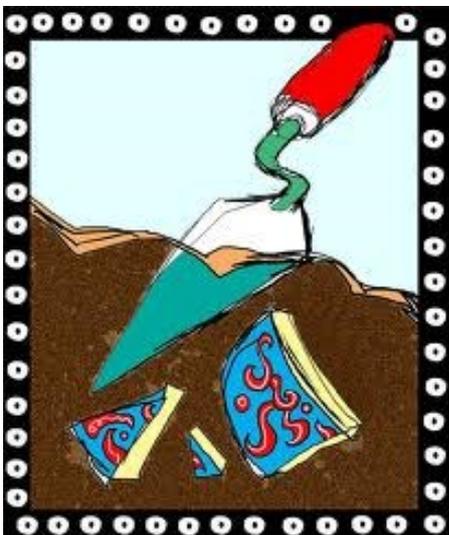
As I walked back to the caravan I was contemplating what he had said. "Time Team" have dug 20th century sites including World War II sites. True, most of the airfields in the UK have been built- on take Clifton Moor at York for example, but what about non military sites? In Leeds city centre a new shopping centre is being built. The 1960's buildings have been demolished to make way for the hi-tech modern building and no doubt

Twentieth Century artefacts will have surfaced. Will a 1962 Tetley's beer bottle receive the same attention as a piece of Medieval pottery?

We have good records of life in the 20th Century; film, audio and published- is that sufficient? Come to think of it, I have met academic archaeologists who are experts in Prehistory, Egypt, Roman and the Dark Ages etc, but never one who is a 20th Century expert! This area is

left to the Historians.

We all know that if you put two archaeologists together with a subject, you will get three opinions. So, should we leave this era in the hands of specialist amateur groups, or desk-bound subjective historians, or do the academic archaeologists need to rethink about certain periods? (That is if we have any professional archaeologists left in a few years.)



Academic archaeology courses are also becoming less popular since the introduction of higher tuition fees; students don't want to pay for a degree with little chance of a job in archaeology at the end, although Francis Pryor has blamed this on the sad demise of Time Team. "I fear that already hard-pressed university archaeology departments will find fewer students enrolling for their courses, once Time Team is no longer on our

screens" (Francis Pryor – In the Long Run), and with the present "idiots" we have in power relaxing planning laws, a lot of our heritage and archaeology will simply disappear, unrecorded for the sake of profit.

So is there a date at which archaeology stops?

What are your thoughts on the future of Archaeology?

*Hmm— let's have a heated debate! - Ed.*

# Clarendon Palace and the King's Pavement by Janet

Earlier this year, I visited the remains of what was once the third most important mediaeval palace in England, especially favoured by the Plantagenets. It is Clarendon Palace near Salisbury. Visiting, it felt like making a journey into a forgotten corner of the English countryside. We had to park about a mile away, and then cross fields and follow a winding, rutted, wooded track, leading up to the hilltop site. It is now sadly, a ruin, grazed most incongruously, by llamas!

Clarendon was established as a royal palace during the 12th century with Henry II primarily responsible for its transition from a hunting lodge. New additions, of a mid-12th century date, include the king's quarters, a massive wine cellar, All Saints Chapel and the Great Hall. By the early 13th century further extensive expansion took place instigated by Henry III. This included the construction of King's Chapel and the Antioch chamber under the supervision of Elias de Dereham (1236) who was also responsible for the construction of Salisbury Cathedral. Stained glass windows in the chapel closely resembled those found at Salisbury Cathedral .

The layout of the palace was not formal, with unaligned buildings situated around courtyards. Many of the buildings were constructed of dressed flint, and still stand to a good height in places. The external walls were lime-washed. The interior decor was often lavish, with plaster tinted blue by the inclusion of lapis lazuli thought to come from Afghanistan, and the use of Purbeck marble for pillars.

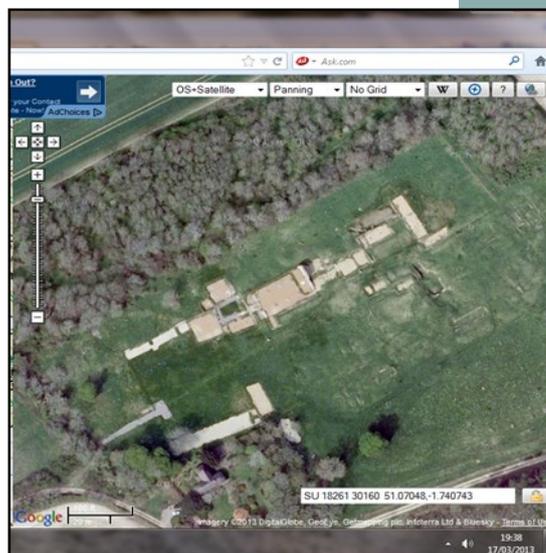
The last phase of major rebuilding took place in the mid-15th century, but was followed by a decline in the number of royal visits that were made to Clarendon; the last recorded visit took place in 1574 by Queen Elizabeth I, when all that appeared to remain of the palace was a 'lodge'. It is during this period that Clarendon changed from a palace to a place of a more local significance, as a prison !

## Archaeology and the Palace

Archaeological evidence supports continued occupation within the area of the western entrance, continuing into the 17th century as a prison. Excavations carried out in 1821 revealed the general outline for the palace but damaged any stratigraphical relationships between the walls and floor levels. Excavations also took place 1933-39, 1957, and 1964-5. These located Roman pottery, coins and a fragment of box tile, probably representing a local romanticised population. Excavation during 1933-9 also revealed a Norman hunting lodge Earlier Medieval structures were noted but not fully investigated.

An unusual, complete tile kiln, in use probably between 1237 and 1244, was located beneath the Salsary in 1937 and removed to the British Museum in 1965

There are tile pieces and brickwork tumbled all over the site and it appears that about two thirds of the site still remains to be excavated, hence the ongoing dig by Durham University



Ariel view of Clarendon Palace

## The King's Pavement

Excavations made during the 1930s unearthed large numbers of tiles in the vicinity of the King's private chapel. They had been scattered as a result of falling from the first floor, where the chapel was located .

A large, circular, puzzle emerged as the tiles were reassembled. Ten differently patterned tiles of varying size indicated how the bands should be arranged. Each one was separated by a band of narrow, green tiles. Marks were found that had been made to help the original assembly of the pavement, which provided valuable clues for the reconstruction. An inscription at the top reads 'Pavimentum Henrici Regis Anglie'. It is now in The British Museum.

See a video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=er5hW8SQKLQ>

Information from <http://www.gatehouse-gazetteer.info/English%20sites/3986.html> and British Library.



The King's Pavement

## 3D Laser Survey Finds Lost City Of The Monkey God

### By Robert Morgan

In 1940, an American adventurer and spy, Theodore Morde, came staggering out of the dense Honduran Jungle claiming to have found a "lost city of the monkey god" with giant ape sculptures.

He claimed the local Indians were making sacrifices to a gigantic idol of an ape, but unfortunately Morde was killed by a car in London before he could reveal its exact location.

Morde had originally been looking for the White City, a hidden refuge of gods and gold first reported by Hernan Cortez, the Spanish

Conquistador, in the early 16th century.

It was Charles Lindberg, the first man to fly solo across the Atlantic who encouraged Morde to explore this region inland from the Mosquito Coast, claiming he had glimpsed the white ruins of "an amazing ancient metropolis" under the jungle canopy when flying across Central America.

This week, at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Cancun, Mexico, scientists will describe how they found a sprawling series of towns with

dozens of creeper-engulfed pyramids and plazas never seen before by western eyes.

According to Christopher Fisher, an archaeologist at Colorado State University, the palaces may have been built by a culture very different from the Maya and Aztecs, who later came to dominate neighbouring regions.

While the Mexican Aztecs were a military society feared for their human sacrifices, Fisher believes the newly discovered cities were well irrigated, with shady parks and 60ft-high pyramids designed to be admired from a distance.

## Aerial 3D Photography

Fisher and his colleague, Stephen Leisz, are the first outsiders to analyse a mass of aerial 3D photographs taken from a Cessna crisscrossing the Mosquito Coast last year.

According to Fisher, the four-hour flights, using a 3D surveying camera that bombarded the canopy with 100,000 laser pulses a second, collected more data than he could have found in 10 years of searching on the ground.

He was wary about dating the sites, whose exact locations, known as T1 to T4, remain classified as a military secret in Honduras to deter looters. But Professor Rosemary Joyce of the University of California, Berkeley, said they could date back to AD500.

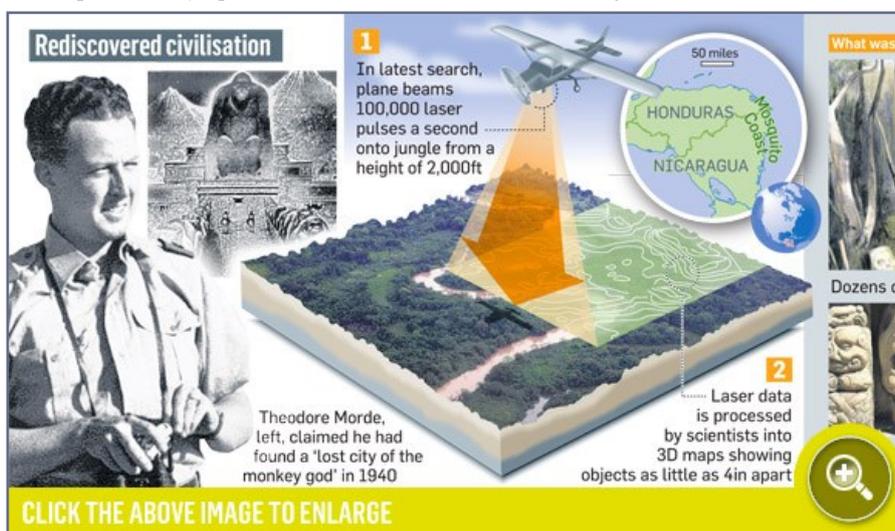
The expedition was organised by Steve Elkins, a Los Angeles filmmaker who has been gripped by the legends of Central America for many years. He is supported by the Honduran

government, which foresees a tourism bonanza.

Elkins is hoping to fly into the area on a military helicopter to make a documentary about the ruins. Fisher hopes to join him at the sites later this year so that ground-based mapping and excavation can begin.

He is keen to play down expectations, though. "I do not expect to find the White City," he said. "It's a myth and a distraction. There may be many statues of monkeys and half-human monkey gods, but if I see one the size of King Kong I shall be, well, very surprised."

After The Sunday Times Report: *Aircraft spots ancient lost world in Honduran Jungle 14/05/2013*



## Roman Quiz Part Due ( that's two in Italian)

**The Roman Emperor Caligula planned to make what a consul?**

- A) His favourite peacock, which he later tried to marry
- B) His favourite horse, which he housed in marble stables
- C) His favourite sister, with whom he was having an incestuous affair

**What animals were sacred to the city of Rome, and why?**

- A) Lions: they symbolized strength
- B) Geese: the Romans did occasionally have a sense of humour
- C) Eagles: they symbolized the way Rome mercilessly sought out and destroyed its enemies

**In his later years, Julius Caesar always wore a laurel wreath. Why?**

- A) He thought it protected him against lightning
- B) He was going bald and it hid the bald patches
- C) An augur had told him that he would be murdered if he didn't

*Answers on the back page...*



## Amazing Artefacts! - Mediaeval Puzzle Jug



Mediaeval Puzzle Jug

This medieval green glazed jug is dated from around AD 1300 and was found when digging the foundations for the new Town Hall in Oxford in 1895.

Puzzle jugs were used for drinking games. The two separate elements in the design reflect two separate sections inside the jug. The lower chamber is filled through the hollow handle at the side and the liquid flows out through the stag-head spout. Drinking from the other side,

the drinker would spill liquid on himself from the spout on that side, hence the name puzzle jug !

The jug is made of Brill/ Boarstall ware from a west Buckinghamshire workshop. The decoration makes the jug one of the finest examples of its type.

From The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford



