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East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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BULLETIN 2 – January 2021

We issued the first, unnumbered, Bulletin in November for Lockdown 2.0 and now, of course, we're into Lockdown 3.0... but at least vaccinations have started. I imagine some of you have already had yours or got an appointment; hope so.

As with the previous Bulletin and Interim Newsletters, this one is aimed much more at topical, interesting and, hopefully, amusing items than our monthly newsletters – to provide something extra to read and things to do to help pass the time. I'm grateful to the people credited on some of the items and to Vanessa and Alan for jokes and points of interest. The main articles are:

- **A Historical Perspective:** things were a lot worse for our grandparents.
- **Remembering the Romans X – an update:** following a correction from a friend.
- **Egypt 2: Karnak and Luxor:** I'd not yet managed to fit in a follow up to the November 2020 article following Jo & Sue Crane's Egyptian travels in February 2019. They left us ready for an early morning flight to Luxor and this one continues their travels and includes my own visits, as well as archaeological and historical information taken from my university work.
- **Ancient Cave Paintings in Indonesia:** with strong links to the earlier articles on human evolution.

These are interspersed with shorter items culled from various places and photos that I liked (and hope you will, if not already seen). Read on.

Oh, and I expect there will be at least one more bulletin, but only if I get enough items to fill it – short, long, funny or pointed. Perhaps it's something for you to do to pass the time?

**Please send any contributions to geoffnsue@hotmail.co.uk
NOT TO THE EDAS ADDRESS OR BY CLICKING 'REPLY'**

Geoff Taylor

Dorset Council Local Plan – IMPORTANT, THIS AFFECTS US ALL

This plan will guide decisions on planning applications up to 2038, e.g. from posters at By-the-Way Field, Wimborne, a proposal to build nearly 500 houses on Green Belt around there.

The plan is due out on Monday 18th so should be available by the time you read this: SEE [HERE](#)

Consultation is only up to 15th March – 8 weeks compared with 12 for the last 15-year plan. There will be no direct notification of Dorset residents, just posters in (some) empty shops, libraries and Tourist Information Centres – i.e. places where people aren't going during lockdown.

**It is hard to avoid the feeling that the Council would prefer people didn't comment,
so I would urge you to check on this and comment to the Council.**



Just a few of the 25,000 cards Capt. Tom Moore received on his 100th birthday.

That will be £100. Chasing birds is not a reasonable excuse to be outside



A historical perspective

I have no idea where this came from originally, except that it was obviously in the United States:

It's a mess out there now. Hard to discern between what's a real threat and what's not. For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War 1 starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people die in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those 2 years. Yes, 50 million.

On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War 2 starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try and catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is pulled into WW2. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war.

Smallpox was epidemic until you were in your 40's, and it killed 300 million people in your lifetime. At 50, the Korean War starts; 5 million perish. From your birth, until you are 55, you dealt with the fear of Polio epidemics each summer. You experience friends and family contracting polio and being paralysed and/or dying. On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War, you lived each day with the fear of nuclear annihilation.

Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How did they endure all of that? When you were a kid and didn't think that your 85 year-old grandparent understood how hard school was. And how mean that kid in your class was. Yet they survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art. Refined and enlightened as time goes by. Let's try to keep things in perspective.

Your parents and/or grandparents were called to endure all of the above. You are called to stay home and sit on the couch watching reruns.



New Year fireworks on the Taipei 101 Tower



REMEMBERING THE ROMANS X – an update, with thanks to Jim Stacey

In the January newsletter I included an epitaph of someone who it was claimed died at the age of 105, with a rather uncertain translation. As I have mentioned before, my Latin isn't very good but I do have some familiarity with the abbreviations and approach generally used on Roman epitaphs. Of course, my epitaph research was mainly aimed at considering ages, the point of this series of articles.

D . M .
Q . QVINTIO . EVTYCHEII .
QVINTII . EVTYCHIANVS . ET .
VICTORIA . EX . TSSTAMENTO .
FECERVNT . NVTRITORI . SVO .
VIXIT . ANN . CV . M . V . D . XXVII .

D . M .
Q . QVINTIO . EVTYCHEII .
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FECERVNT . NVTRITORI . SVO .
VIXIT . ANN . CV . M . V . D . XXVII .

The abbreviated translation I showed said the epitaph was “**of Quintus Quintus Eutychetius set up in accordance with his will by his nurses(?)**”, but a friend whose Latin is much better than mine was intrigued since NVTRITORI SVO on the inscription is dative singular. That meant it was more likely that the two named people earlier in the epitaph set up the tombstone, rather than any putative nurses.

My friend looked further and found the actual epitaph (above) and a translation online [here](#), from *An Account of the Statues, Busts, Bass-relieves, Cinerary Urns, and Other Ancient Marbles and Paintings at Ince. Collected By H. B.*, a book by Henry Blundell published in 1803. Ince is actually the village of Ince Blundell north of Liverpool, then in Lancashire, and the book was an account of the ancient items at Ince Blundell Hall. Although the family held the manor from the 12th century, the antiquities were collected by Henry, advised by the famous antiquary Charles Townley. They passed to Henry's son, Charles, who died without children so that they were inherited by a cousin, Thomas Weld of Lulworth, Dorset. The antiquities are all now held by National Museums Liverpool, received as a gift in 1959.

The book says that the item is a “Bass-Relief [which] evidently appears to have been taken from the front of a sarcophagus: the ornaments and sea-horses are curious, and wrought probably not later than the time of the Antonines: between the horses on a square tablet is the inscription.”. It then gives a translation: “Eutychianus and Victoria erected this sculpture to the Gods, Manes of Quintius Quintus Eutyches, their foster-father, according to his will. He lived one hundred and five years , five months and twenty-seven days.”

D.M. is DIS MANIBVS, more often translated as something like ‘to the spirits of the departed’, though the above is more literal. NVTRITORI has several possible translations, though I never found foster-father in my earlier checks. However, this translation certainly makes sense and fits with what my friend said. But it also brings up some transcription problems, e.g. the spacing here is slightly different from my record and it gives QVINTIO rather than QVUINTO as I had it. The first ‘S’ in TSSTAMENTO, if that’s what it is, is clearly an issue, either on the inscription or in transcribing it. More importantly, at least in terms of the reason the inscriptions were first extracted, is it 17 days, as previously, or 27?

I no longer have access to the University’s *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (CIL) and I couldn’t find this item in the Liverpool Museums’ online collections. Since the original research looked at around 40,000 epitaphs in total, it is entirely possible that some transcriptions had errors, and TESTAMENTO is more likely than TESTAMENTV that I had. But some of CIL is, at last, online at <https://cil.bbaw.de/>; it’s hard to navigate, but the inscription list is [here](#). It shows a mix of errors (assuming CIL is correct!):

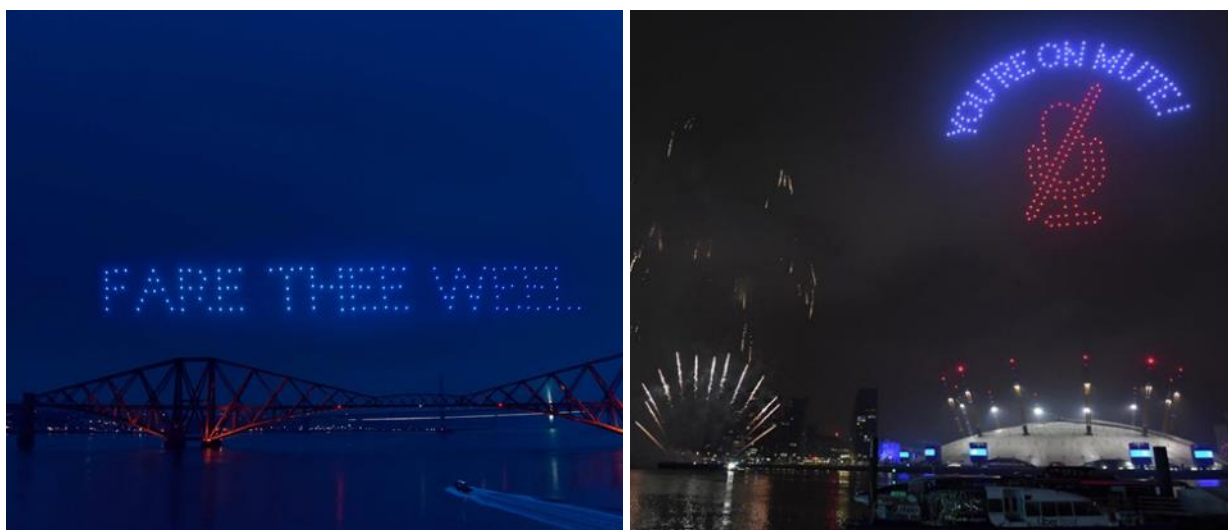
- My spacing was right; that above was clearly tidied up a bit.
- EVTYCHETI and QVINTI in mine were correct, not as above.
- QVINTIO and TSSTAMENTO above are correct, not what I had.
- The first S in TSSTAMENTO is actually an indeterminate character in CIL.
- And it really is 17 days, not 27.

So, this new translation is certainly better than mine, though possibly not completely correct with the names. At least the changes don’t alter the conclusions of my previous article, but this does illustrate some of the difficulties of translating Roman epitaphs, especially if you try to cross-check sources. Beyond abbreviations, lots of epitaphs have mistakes in the wording and poor spacing is very common; I guess it partly depended on how clear the instructions were, as many masons were probably illiterate, and what you could afford to pay for a slab that was big enough to be properly laid out. It’s odd, though, that this one was poorly spaced as the reliefs around the inscription suggest it wasn’t cheap.

Other types of inscription can be even more difficult as epitaphs are, at least, mostly based on a fairly standard approach. I hesitate to think how much knowledge is needed to translate something like the Vindolanda tablets.

Anyway, many thanks to Jim, who I hope will point out any howlers I make in future.

Geoff Taylor



Drone displays welcoming the New Year from Scotland and London

A Literary Quiz from Nick Ellis (answers on the last page)

A. Writers in the past

1. Which customs official & diplomat under Edward III wrote in Kent and in almost recognisable English?
2. MP for Hull, friend of Cromwell, satirist; who wrote love poems and musings on the meaning of life?
3. Who wrote the original plays which were adapted for *Kiss Me Kate* & *West Side Story*?
4. Which writers tried to be published as Bell, but reverted to their real surname when fame arrived?
5. Which early C19 Post Office clerk created a city chronicle?
6. Which early C20 architect-writer designed his own house in Dorchester?
7. Who successfully disguised and put Knutsford in one of her best known novels?
8. What were both surnames of Mary Ann E who changed her name to a man's to be published?
9. What Hampshire-born C19 clergyman's daughter is identifiable from S&S (1811) and P&P (1813)?
10. Which ancient Greek islander left us only 12 of her best lyrical love poems?

B. Writing for young adults & children

1. What Socialist woman was the creator of the Psammead?
2. Which ancient writer wrote fabulous stories with a moral for young people (and for adults)?
3. Who wrote nonsense for children in verse?
4. What spy and journalist in post-revolutionary Russia wrote for his boat-loving young friends?
5. Whose caterpillar was very hungry?
6. And who wrote about a tiger coming to tea?
7. What secretary of the Bank of England wrote stories about three mammals and an amphibian?
8. Which C19 English writer made a poem of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*?
9. What is the last name of poet and author Walter, who wrote *The Listeners*?
10. Dan Dare featured in which comic?

C. Detectives and thrillers

1. Who was the Swedish author with a social conscience who died in 2015?
2. *The Suspicions of Mr .* who in a 2010 imitation C19 detective novel?
3. Yrsa Sigurðardóttir is a thriller writer from which country?
4. Trilby, trench coat, pipe and Paris: which detective?
5. Who created Jack Reacher?
6. Who wrote about a doing-to-death on a train going to Istanbul?
7. This US creator of Marlowe went to Dulwich College?
8. Reginald Hill's best known crime-fighting duo are?
9. What colour covers are on the Penguin crime novels?
10. Who wrote *The Third Man*?

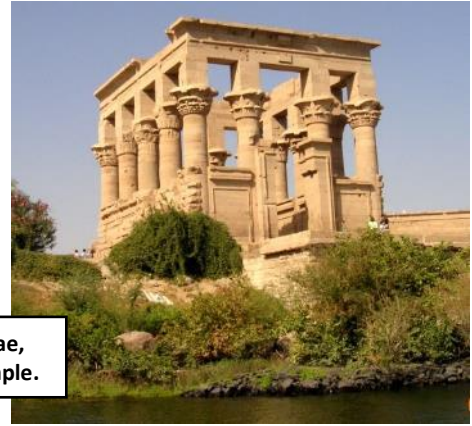
D. Miscellaneous

1. What newspaper featured Rupert the Bear?
2. Penguin Books are for adults, but what is the children's sort?
3. What colour in Monopoly are Mayfair and Park Lane?
4. Who was Andy Pandy's girlfriend?
5. Who wrote the Mr Men books?
6. How many humans are there in *The Famous Five*?
7. What colour are the wheels on Noddy's car?
8. What was the talking horse called?
9. Where was there something nasty in the woodshed?
10. What pen-name did the Scottish novelist Iain Banks use on his Sci-Fi series about 'The Culture'?

Egypt 2: Karnak and Luxor

The treasures of ancient Egypt are fairly well known, which makes them no less exciting and interesting to visit and see. What isn't well known is that many of the famous temples seen today were not built by the Pharaohs, but are Ptolemaic (323-30 BC) and/or Roman, though often with a core or on a site that is dynastic. In fact, our idea of a traditional Egyptian temple probably mostly comes from these since, as the latest to be built or decorated, they are the best preserved.

The unfinished Roman 'Hadrian's Kiosk' at Philae, Egyptianised but not a traditional Egyptian temple.



The remains of the temple at Qasr el-Douch (ancient KYSIS), dedicated to Osiris and Isis, at Kharga Oasis in the Western Desert. It is possible that the temple was begun under Augustus, but the main building is attributed to Domitian, the inner pylon (gate) to Hadrian and the outer pylon to Trajan.

I (Geoff) found 65 temples in traditional Egyptian style and dedicated to the Egyptian gods with good evidence of Roman work, particularly from cartouches naming one or more Roman emperors. Almost all of those that are known to be wholly or mainly Roman are in relatively obscure places – the oases of the Western Desert, related to the Roman quarry sites in the Eastern Desert or along the little visited stretches of the Nile. Some of these, and most of the rest, also have Ptolemaic building or decoration, and I expect that further research would show considerably more Ptolemaic building than Roman. Temples were constructed as relatively plain edifices and then, on the whole,

decorated with reliefs and carvings later, often over many decades. That makes dating difficult, particularly as most inscriptions don't record exactly what work was done.

Early explorers often recorded and published details of what they had seen, sometimes in considerable detail. Napoleon's team of scholars, scientists and artists recorded what they found from 1799 to 1802, published 1809-1829 in the immense *Description de L'Egypte*, with good information also from Sir John Gardner Wilkinson's meticulous records of monuments and inscriptions from the first half of the 19th century. These sorts of records often provided me with the best information about certain temples, as early Egyptian archaeology did us few favours.



One of the courts at Philae temple from *Description de L'Egypte*.

Auguste Mariette was the first Director of the Egyptian Antiquities Service and dominated the scene from 1858 to 1881, yet his methods included conscript labour driven by whips, dynamite to remove obstacles and post-Pharaonic remains removed with hardly any record. Things improved little thereafter, with the destruction of monuments to provide stone and lime at, for example, Karnak and Luxor continuing well into the 20th century. Even after some careful excavation and recording of certain sites started in the 1920s, temples were often just seen as the carriers of reliefs and inscriptions; the 9 volumes recording the Dendera temple, published 1934-1986,

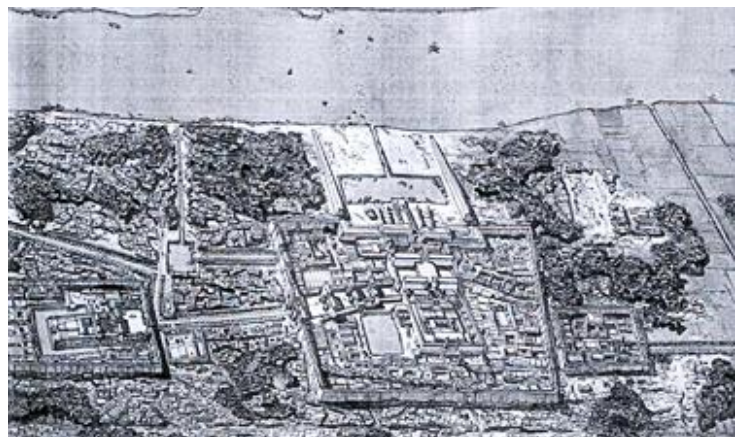
don't mention excavation even once. *Sebakhim* were diggers for *sebakh*, decomposed organic material used as fertiliser which particularly came from mud bricks and other building remains. Although known from antiquity, licences were still being granted well into the 1930s, and there is good evidence of the practice continuing after that. The approach to hunting for papyri, again continuing at least until the 1930s, almost ensured that anything else would be missed or ignored.

It is a wonder that anything survives, but it clearly does. Jo & Sue Crane's first visit after flying from Cairo, and mine and 'my' Sue's when we stayed in Luxor, was to the vast remains of the temple, or rather temples, at Karnak.

Karnak temples stood within ancient Thebes, with at least 6 different residential areas around the temples in the Graeco-Roman period, the main one then called *DIOSPOLIS MAGNA*. The whole temple complex covers 100 hectares (250 acres), said to be the largest ever built, though only part can be visited and much of the rest is tumbled ruins. The main part of any visit is the Precinct of Amun (or 'Amon', 'Amun-Re', etc.), itself roughly 500m square and easily taking 3 hours to see, if you can stand the sun for that long. Whilst there are areas beyond it that were dynamited and/or levelled in the 19th and early 20th centuries, removing and replacing buildings goes back to ancient times as gods fell out of favour or as astrological cycles changed.



The temple of Hathor at Dendera and its enclosure wall in 1934. The ancient settlement area outside the enclosure has been completely cleared by *sebakhim*.



A reconstruction of the temples of Karnak at their height from the east, with the Nile at the top. The large walled area is the Precinct of Amun, with the smaller walled Precinct of Mut to the right.

The earliest visible remains date from around 1800 BC, although excavations have taken Karnak's origins back to c.3200 BC. The most extensive remains are from the 18th Dynasty, c.1550-1300 BC, which was when the great temple to Amun was begun.



Amongst many other builders, 'Queen' Hatshepsut, 5th Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty, restored the small Precinct of Mut adjacent to that of Amun, and had two obelisks erected at its entrance. Although one of these is now broken, the other is almost complete and is the tallest of all remaining obelisks at 30m (97 feet). All the pylons, or gates, are Ptolemaic but there is also Roman work at Karnak, with the cartouches of Augustus, Tiberius and Domitian inscribed on some of the smaller temples. These seem to relate only to some of the decoration of these

buildings, although clearance of post-Pharaonic construction may well have removed evidence for more extensive work.

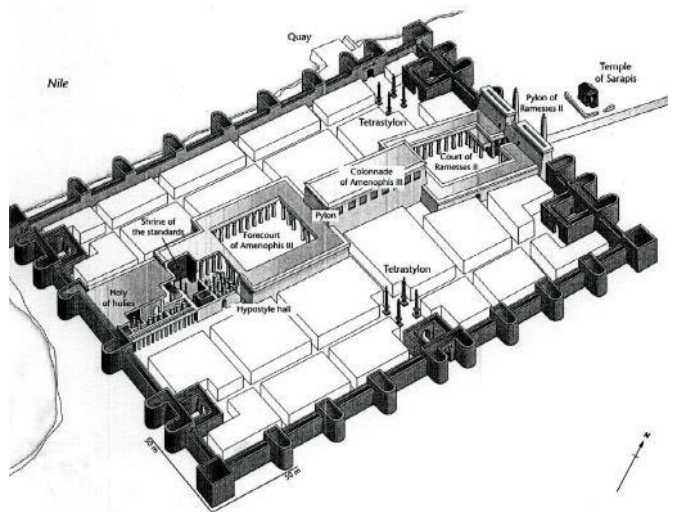


The entrance to the Karnak site: seated rams (the symbol of Amun) lining the route through the outer wall of the Precinct of Amun.

The 500m² Hypostyle Hall of Amun's temple is probably the most famous and impressive part of Karnak, with its 134 massive columns. 122 of these are 10m high and the rest 21m tall, whilst the architraves on top of the columns weigh about 70 tons. Colours remain on many of these after well over 3,500 years,



Luxor Temple, also dedicated to Amun, is linked to the entrance of Karnak by a 3km processional avenue of rams, continuing those in the picture above. It was subordinate to Karnak and built later, mainly from Amenophis III to Ramesses II ('the Great'), i.e. in the two centuries from about 1400 BC. There was little work done under the Ptolemies and, it seems, only decoration and repair under the Romans, particularly Augustus and Tiberius. A small Roman-style temple was built during Hadrian's reign, but the major changes came around AD 300 when it was incorporated into a Roman fort and administrative centre, using stone from Luxor and several other temples. The Amun cult seems to have ceased before this, and the Romans certainly decorated much of the temple to alter it to a Roman style suitable for the Imperial cult. Earlier cult statuary was found that seems to have been respectfully buried at this time.



By the early 19th century much of the site was buried up to 15m deep and covered in housing, with a working mosque built into the taller remains which still exists. This didn't stop the authorities dynamiting parts for stone and saltpetre up to about the 1850s. Clearance under the archaeologists from later in the century was even more destructive, removing most traces of post-Pharaonic work.

Luxor Temple is a much easier visit than Karnak, simply because of its size, and rewards exploration for some of the traces of the Roman presence (with a suitable guide or guide book). Look, too, for the rare statue of Tutankhamun; most were destroyed after his reign. For those staying in Luxor or on one of the Nile cruise boats, it is also easily accessible and spectacularly illuminated at night, where Karnak is hidden behind its precinct walls and requires something of a trek for the *son et lumière*.



In the next article, we'll cross the Nile to the monuments on the west bank, including the Valley of the Kings.

Geoff Taylor/Sue & Jo Crane

The Wareham Bears are coming to Wimborne Model Town

The Wareham Bears were collected in the 1970s and 1980s by Mary Hildesley and first exhibited at her shop in 1981. Mary created characters for them by dressing them, writing books and placing them in model scenarios. You may remember visiting them as we did with our children a long time back, but they left Wareham over 20 years ago.

Since then they have been seen at a theme park in Norfolk, Wilton House and Wookey Hole. They came back to Dorset about 5 years ago, taking up residence at the Blue Pool, but that closed last September. However, following an appeal on BBC Radio Solent, they've been bought by Wimborne Model Town.



I was there a few days ago doing some voluntary work and saw Pickfords bringing in the display cases to the newly re-furbished area where they'll go on display.



Wimborne Model Town is due to open (coronavirus permitting) after their winter closure, when the major maintenance work is done, on 27th March in time for Easter. It might be time to visit for a bit of nostalgia including, of course, seeing how Wimborne looked in the early 1950s.

Quite amusing, not to mention a bit of good music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjPvIHANOow>

and I also liked:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsF53JpBMLk>

starts slow and builds. Sorry about any annoying ads.

And if you didn't hear about Fenn Rosenthal and 'Dinosaurs in Love' you may well like:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-55678506>



Bournemouth's first sunrise of 2021
(photo by Arthur Yeung)



The Northern Lights were visible in northern Scotland over the night of 12th/13th January. Here's one view, from Nairn on the Moray Firth.

Ancient Cave Paintings in Indonesia

I wish that Neil Meldrum (or I) had known of this when he was drawing up the 3rd of his articles on Human Evolution, looking at art in the Upper Palaeolithic (October 2020 newsletter). The article said that the figurative cave paintings in Europe (and especially the most famous ones like Lascaux) tend to be rather less than 40,000 years old, though ones now being found in south-east Asia may have been painted up to 40,000 years ago. These latest findings, only very recently published, possibly push that date back another 5,000 or more years.

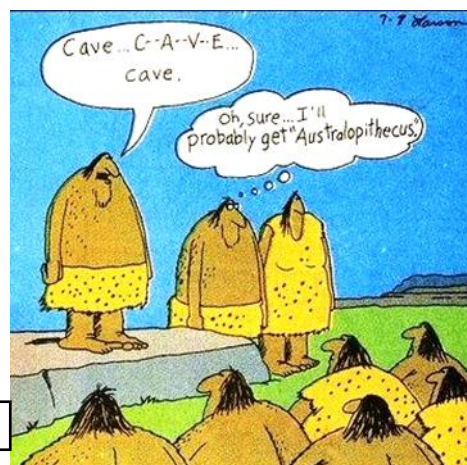
Paintings, apparently of a group of Sulawesi warty pigs, have been found in Leang Tedongnge cave on the island of Sulawesi. Made with red ochre pigment, the most damaged part seems to show two pigs fighting, but there is also a third pig separate from them that's extremely well preserved. These are suggested as the oldest known representations of animals, dated to at least 45,500 years ago by uranium series dating. The technique is based on the decay of uranium in a calcite crust formed by water dripping down the cave walls, though this approach isn't without its detractors.



The cave, found in 2017, is remote and only accessible, with difficulty, in the dry season. These pigs are endemic on Sulawesi and clearly of importance to the hunter-gatherer society which made the artworks. As the lead author of the original paper in *Science Advances* ([here](#)) said "the common portrayal of these warty pigs ... offers hints at the deep symbolic significance and perhaps spiritual value of Sulawesi warty pigs in the ancient hunting culture". The foregoing points are, of course, ones made by Neil in his series of articles. And, as with the European cave art, the subject matter is the animals the people were familiar with, and presumably hunted. As Neil points out, there could then have been an 'affinity' then between small numbers of people thousands of miles apart, than there often is now, despite our instant communications.

No doubt further finds remain to be made. Meanwhile more 'popular' information than the academic paper above can be found at [this link](#).

Geoff Taylor/Neil Meldrum



Primitive spelling bee

Har ice

The strange phenomenon of 'candy floss' on trees – but look closer and it's hundreds of strands of delicate white 'hair'. They form on the fungus on rotting wood when it's humid and just below zero. Sometimes called 'frost flowers', they are usually quite short-lived.



WARNING FOR ICY CONDITIONS

A government warning has said that anyone travelling in icy conditions should take:

Shovel

Blankets or Sleeping Bag

Extra clothing including scarf, hat and gloves

24 hours supply of food and drink

De-Icer

5Kgs of Rock Salt

Torch or lantern with spare batteries

Road Flares and Reflective Triangles

Tow rope

5 gallon petrol can

First Aid Kit

Jump Leads

I looked a complete prat on the bus this morning.



Harbin Ice Festival

This year's 37th ice festival in the northern Chinese city of Harbin runs from 8th January to 25th February. As always, it includes amazing sculptures, lit up at night, made of ice and snow. I'd love to see them but, even if you were allowed to travel to China at the moment, I'm not so sure about braving the cold – temperatures in Harbin can drop to -25°C.



I saw one of those self-help pieces recently: '20 ways to while away time in lockdown', most of which you could think of yourself. I was, though, interested to see that you can enter the Marmalade Awards in Cumbria by post (by 10th February), now that Seville oranges are arriving.

We only found out that such a thing existed a couple of years ago when we had coffee and cheese cake in a café in Japan that was actually in someone's beautiful home. The lady of the house was very chatty, especially after we spotted that she had a prize certificate for her marmalade - she had visited Cumbria, where my wife was born, and Sue makes marmalade. Small world!

The World's Original Marmalade Awards have been held since 2005 at Dalemain House, near Penrith in the 'Marmalake District' - see <https://www.dalemain.com/marmalade-awards/> ... and Sue has just returned from Wimborne Market with Seville oranges.

Literary Quiz Answers

A. Writers in the past

1. Geoffrey Chaucer
2. Andrew Marvell
3. William Shakespeare
4. The Brontes
5. Anthony Trollope (Barchester)
6. Thomas Hardy
7. Mrs Gaskell (*Wives & Daughters*)
8. Evans and (George) Eliot
9. Jane Austen
10. Sappho

B. Writing for young adults & children

1. (EE) Nesbit (*Three Children and It*)
2. Aesop
3. Edward Lear
4. Arthur Ransome (*Swallows and Amazons*)
5. Eric Carle
6. Judith Kerr
7. Kenneth Grahame (*Wind in the Willows*)
8. Robert Browning
9. de la Mare
10. The Eagle

C. Detectives and thrillers

1. Henning Mankell
2. Whicher
3. Iceland
4. Inspector Maigret
5. Lee Child
6. Agatha Christie
7. Raymond Chandler
8. Dalziel & Pascoe
9. Green
10. Graham Greene

D. Miscellaneous

1. Daily Express
2. Puffin
3. Dark Blue
4. Looby Loo
5. Roger Hargreaves
6. Four
7. Red
8. Mr. Ed
9. Cold Comfort Farm
10. Iain M Banks

