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CLARO COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER - JULY 2011

CLARO IN THE COMMUNITY

We've been getting around this month with exhibitions and displays in Knaresborough and Scriven including an exhilarating visit to St Mary's Primary School to introduce archaeology to 6 to 8 year olds and perhaps stimulate a lifelong fascination. However, let's begin with The Big Lunch.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BRINGING communities together – that is the aim of the Eden Project **BIG LUNCH**, and this certainly happened in Scriven when the village gathered in Jacob Smith Park for a tremendous picnic.

THE WAY WE WERE

As part of their celebration, The Friends of Jacob Smith Park invited us to put on a small exhibition and we leapt at the chance to illustrate the work we are doing on our Scriven Project, and to recount at least part of the history of the Park and its surroundings. This was an ideal opportunity to show the inhabitants of Scriven just what we are doing poking around in the past life of their village and something of what our research has revealed.

MEDIEVAL DAY SUCCESS

ONCE a year Knaresborough plunges into the past in a big way, and this year Sunday 19 June was the chosen **MEDIEVAL DAY**. And what a day it was! Grey, rainy and cold, we feared the worst; perhaps no-one would come and see our wonderful exhibition!

How wrong can you be? Admittedly it was a slow start but, by the end of the day we had attracted over 250 visitors. We'd put on a really special display showing our latest research, and in honour of Medieval Day, we'd packed our finds cabinet with medieval artifacts - all discovered in Scriven. Among them were tokens, coins, spindle whorls, a beautiful gilded horse harness pendant and many more curious and interesting finds.

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NEW DISPLAYS

FOLLOWING recent research carried out by some of our members we added some new exhibits this year. The Scriven Workhouse study drew a lot of interest and threw some light on the intricacies of the Poor Law. There will be more on this in the next Newsletter.

We also put together some significant family case histories which included quite a lot of information on the once prominent Slingsby family. Scriven Hall, the original family home of the Slingsby family, featured significantly in the Second World War, and our research has revealed a great deal of relevant information which we have now put on display.

A IS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

St Mary's Primary School in Scriven was the setting for our project to promote archaeology. Led by community archaeologist Kevin Cale with help from some of our group members, it was a two day project aimed at introducing the children to archaeology in general and the heritage of their community in particular, thereby increasing their understanding of where they live.

To get the ball rolling and set the mood there was a fun dressing up activity to start the day. Then it was down to work. Over the two days, the children, aged between six and eight, were presented with a wide variety of tasks to familiarize them with the world of the archeologist. They looked at aerial photographs, maps ancient and modern, old photographs, and documents. They also had a go at drawing their own map of the area.

On the final day the children were taken on a guided walk around Scriven Park. Of course, it was more than just a walk, because we took the opportunity to demonstrate how we carry out fieldwork, how we perform metal detecting and how useful it is in an archaeological context; and we even included some dowsing with metal rods which absolutely astonished them.

Their last task was to look at a selection of artefacts, try to draw them and then decide what they were, how they were used, and make a guess at how old they were.

The project was pronounced a great success, and we felt we had enriched their education by increasing their understanding and appreciation of archaeology.



DIGGING THE DIRT

AS for our own project, our Excavation Team is in the process of excavating a bank and ditch in High Wood. Hopes are running high that this will reveal an important feature. At the moment it is shrouded in mystery, but we have found, on the surface of the broad bank, what looks like a paved area, the purpose of which is unknown. Accordingly there is only one way to find out and that is to dig. Watch this space!

FORTHCOMING EVENT

AS part of the CBA Archaeology Week, we are putting together a special exhibition at Park Grove Methodist Church on Thursday 23 July from 10am to 3.30pm. As well as a display showing our the results of our research so far, there will be a guided walk around Scriven which we hope will attract some interest.

GALLERY



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