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## CLARO COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

Since publishing our last Newsletter the group has been progressing research into the heritage of Scriven but also developing new activities, especially relating to interaction with the community. We have been involved in a rewarding geological tour of the study area and a major exhibition, which formed part of Harrogate Borough Council Medieval Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Both these events resulted in a remarkable amount of support and encouragement from the public.

Sadly, we have to report the death of our long time friend and colleague, David Vickers. An appreciation of his life is included in this Newsletter.

NEW PHONE NUMBER for CCAG THURSDAYS ONLY 07751 232170

### CCAG EXHIBITION AT MEDIEVAL DAY

From the start of the project at Scriven the group has aimed to present information to the public. We used the opportunity given to us at Harrogate Borough Council Medieval Day at Knaresborough Castle on June 21<sup>st</sup> to display our unique approach to heritage studies through landscape archaeology, finds and oral history. We were able to display a small collection of finds from the Scriven area.

The exhibition gave an opportunity for group members to use their talents. Thanks to Peter Eaton, who painted a watercolour of Sir Henry Slingsby at the Battle of Marston Moor for display at this exhibition, and to Mike Baxter, a new member of the group, who made available his considerable design skills.

More than 600 people attended this exhibition, including many who were local and some who had come from Australia. Thanks to Mike's son Thomas who kept an accurate count all day.

The occasion was more interactive than in previous years, with many visitors making contributions from their personal experience of Scriven. We learned a lot and made useful contacts.



Kevin ale and members of CCAG meeting the public at our exhibition at HBC Medieval Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

History and Heritage in the  
Harrogate District



## **GEOLOGY OF THE AREA**

The geology of an area has a profound influence on land cultivation and settlement patterns and this in turn bears on its archaeology and history.

The study area has geology of great complexity. There are carboniferous rocks and sandstone beds including some coal measures 1000 metres below the surface. In Scriven there is a lower magnesium limestone ridge which stretches to Knaresborough. Gritstone and sandstone also formed in the remote past and movements of the Nidd laid down the sand and gravel deposits to the north of the area.

Recently the Group benefited from the services of the geologist, Tony Benfield who gave a full and comprehensive presentation of solid and drift geology of the area to the group and subsequently conducted a tour of the land around Coney Garth, a prominent wooded hill.

Examining the abandoned limestone, gritstone and sand quarries which have provided building materials in the past. The feature is of particular significance since a limestone cap lies on top of the underlying gritstone.

The visit to the site was made with the kind permission of the local farmer who accompanied the group and was able to supply much information to supplement Tony Benfield's observations.



Looking at a limestone quarry



Examining a sand quarry



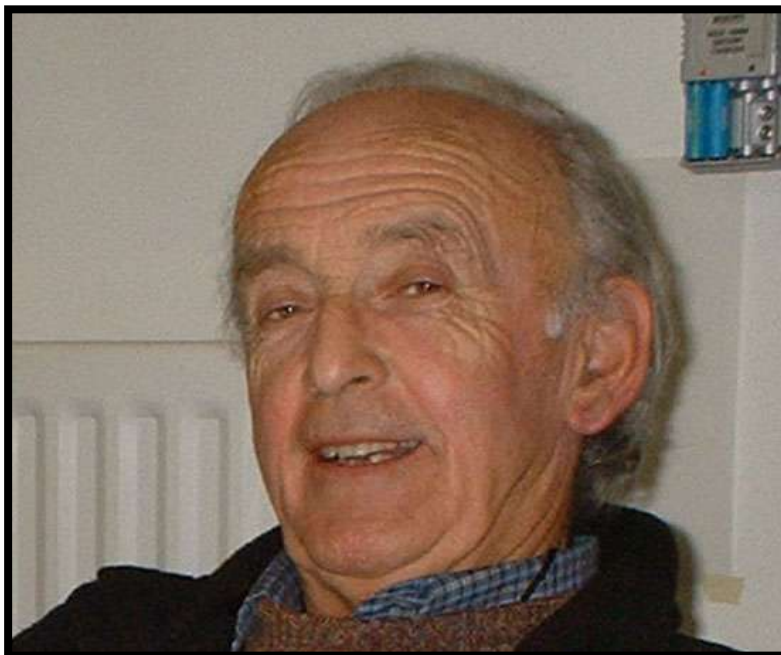
## **DAVID VICKERS**

We are sad to record the death of our friend and colleague David Vickers, who was associated with the group and its predecessors for twenty years. He was also a member of Yorkshire Archaeological Society and Harrogate Archaeological Society and had a range of other antiquarian interests in the area. He loved to study the moors looking for archaeological sites. He was an active contributor to this field of knowledge and always willing to share his expertise. David was born at Scunthorpe and qualified as an architect at Hull. He came to Harrogate in the early 1960s to work at the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority. He was involved in the design of Harrogate District Hospital, among a wide range of other work.

Together with a busy working and family life David pursued many other interests, including walking, climbing, skiing and archaeology. During his retirement David was able to follow his interests to the full. He attracted a wide and enduring circle of friends from all walks of life. This was reflected in the large number of people who attended his funeral.

We will miss his valuable contribution to our work. Above all, we will miss his steadfast, sociable and attractive presence in the group. On a lighter note, David was very photogenic and we will find him difficult to replace on our group photographs, when trying to make a good impression.

We send our sympathy to his widow Shelley, children Rachel Guy and Jo and grandchildren Jenny and Adam.



**DAVID VICKERS**



## FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

As part of the nationwide Festival of British Archaeology, the Claro Community Archaeology Group held a 'FINDS DAY' on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 in the Old Court House at Knaresborough Castle. The day was a great success, despite bad weather. The archaeology team from the Claro Group had the support of Dave Evans, archaeologist from the Yorkshire Museum and Kevin Cale of Community Archaeology Limited, who examined a wide range of artefacts brought in by the public. Some of these items were extremely rare.

Most of the people attending were local, but some came from as far afield as Scarborough. The artefacts brought in included three Neolithic stone axes, all of which had been found locally. One of them was identified, by the green colour of the stone, as having been made in Langdale, Cumbria.

Many old coins were brought in for examination, covering dates from 2500BC to Victorian times. Other artefacts included 16th century musket and cannon balls, an Anglo Saxon pin head, a Tudor dress hook, a flint barb and tang arrow head (200BC) in very good condition.

A record sheet detailing the archaeologist's findings on age, use and material was prepared for each item, dimensions, weight and the location where it was found were recorded. A copy of the record was given to the owner to keep also with the artefact.

The group also took the opportunity to mount an exhibition to illustrate the current work at Scriven.

This event provided a valuable opportunity to meet the public and share information.

