



Newsletter: Issue 9 – June 2019

SWAAG is 10 years old!



This year SWAAG reached its tenth birthday. April's AGM (see page 3) provided the ideal opportunity to have a celebration. Founder members Tim Laurie, Peter Denison-Edson and Alan Mills were present and current chair Dave Brooks gave an amusing presentation, covering some of the highlights of the past decade. Members enjoyed an excellent pie and pea supper, cooked by The Buck Hotel, and then there was cake! Not just one cake, but three, kindly baked by SWAAG member Delyth. For those of you who missed the occasion here are a few of the photographs to remind you of some memorable moments since SWAAG's foundation.



Another success for SWAAG

April was also the month to celebrate SWAAG's lecture at the Royal Archaeological Institute, in Burlington House, London. Philip Bastow gave a presentation on The Hagg on the theme of community and volunteer projects; it was well received.





SWAAG 2009 to 2019



The AGM

The 2019 SWAAG AGM was held on the 9th April, thank you to all of those that turned out for the meeting. The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts was adopted by the members. Mike Walton, Rob Nicholson and Dave Brooks stood down from their posts as Trustees, as is required under the constitution, and in the absence of any other nominations were all re-elected. Your committee for another year comprises David Brooks, Rob Nicholson, Mike Keenan, Mike Walton, Sue Nicholson, Andrea Dixon, Jane Harrison, Philip Bastow and Rod Flint; at the Trustees' meeting following the AGM Dave was reappointed as Chair, Rob as Secretary and Mike Keenan as Treasurer. Sue agreed to continue to organise the activities programme and Philip to project manage The Hagg.

The Trustee team all work very hard to organise and manage the many SWAAG activities and it is important to the future of SWAAG that the board is regularly refreshed with new ideas and new perspectives, so if you would like to help or you would consider becoming a trustee please speak to any of the present trustees, or drop me an email dave@swaag.org

Best wishes

Dave Brooks

Members' meetings

Over the winter months there has been a busy programme of talks.

In November Peter Denison-Edson gave a thought-provoking talk entitled, 'What was 'Roman' about Romano-British Swaledale?' He was followed in December by Stuart Ross, from Northern Archaeological Associates, who gave a fascinating presentation on the archaeological discoveries made during the upgrading of the A1 between Leeming and Barton.

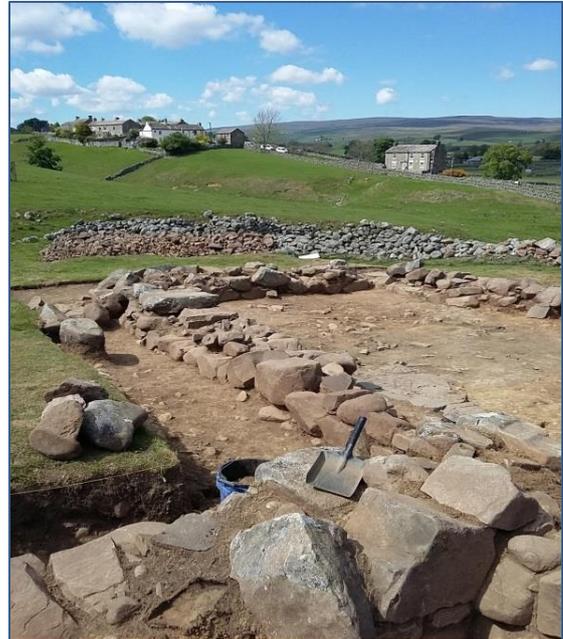


(Above: Excavation of the vicus north of R. Swale. Below: Excavation of a hypocaust at Fort Bridge)



Sue Nicholson gave a talk on Hadrian's Wall in January and subsequently offered to run a study session on Latin inscriptions. Those who attended learnt to distinguish between memorial and altar stones, as well as translate some of the more straightforward inscriptions.

In February Jane Sammells, from Curriculum Kitchen, gave a very different and entertaining talk. Jane is interested in food and cooking across the ages and delivers themed-based, hands-on workshops to schools and other organisations. She explained some of the techniques the Romans used to cook their food, which would have included such delicacies as edible snails, dormice and fermented fish sauce. The audience were relieved they didn't have to sample these! They did however get to try (and take home) a selection of excellent desserts from across the ages, including a 'Bishop Au(c)kland custard tart', the main ingredients of which were mashed potatoes, dried fruit, spices and eggs.



In May the presentation was given by Tony Metcalfe from Altogether Archaeology, a community group, based in the Northern Pennines. Tony spoke about the group's excavations at Well Head, Holwick, a deserted medieval settlement, in Teesdale.

(Above left: padstone to support cruck frame. Above right: foundations of a medieval longhouse)

If you missed Tony's talk more information can be found on the Altogether Archaeology website.

<https://altogetherarchaeology.org/>

Local History Group

The Local History Group met at the end of March. Will Swales gave a presentation on possible meanings of the name 'The Stang' and Perry Gardner discussed his research into twenty local places mentioned in the Domesday Book. Work continues on transcribing the Healaugh and Muker manor court books. Books F, G, H and I are now on the SWAAG website.

Future dates

SWAAG is returning The Hagg this summer. The excavation will take place from 10th to 24th July. There are still places available so if you are interested and haven't already signed up please contact Rod Flint: rod@swaag.org

Our next talk on the 11th June, 7pm in The Buck Hotel in Reeth, will be a return visit from Professor Janet Montgomery, Durham University. Janet will be talking about her work on Vikings.

On the 10th September, 7pm in The Buck Hotel in Reeth, Professor Charlotte Roberts, an osteoarchaeologist, also of Durham University, will give us a talk on her work with human bones and what they can tell us about the past.

On 16th July we will have an informal session in The Buck to swap Hagg dig stories and as usual there will not be a meeting in August.

More details of all activities can be found below and on the SWAAG website.

Social occasions

Our social occasions are a very important element of SWAAG's activities and they have to date been very efficiently organised by Shirley Gale. However Shirley has decided to take a well-earned rest and the trustees would like to thank her for her hard work over the past years. Members have enjoyed meals at various locations across the Dales and we are always looking for recommendations for new eating places and new activities. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions or would like to offer their help in organising events please contact Jane Harrison: jane@swaag.org

The next newsletter

The newsletter relies on contributions from members so if you would like to contribute a photograph or short article about walk, talk or event please contact me at: jane@swaag.org

Future events, of interest to members, could also be publicised. The next newsletter will be issued in the Autumn.

DATE(s)	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	DETAILS	CONTACT
11-06-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Professor Janet Montgomery of Durham University	Janet was kind enough to talk to us about isotope analysis and its role in archaeology in 2017. This year she will talk about using isotopes to identify Vikings from Norway with case studies from Viking burials in Britain.	Sue@swaag.org
16-07-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Informal social during Fieldwork	Come and join us at The Buck for a pint and a chat about this year's fieldwork. NB NO AUGUST MEETING: HOLIDAYS!	Sue@swaag.org
10-07-2019 to 24-07-2019	All day	The Hagg, Swaledale	Further excavation of this Romano-British site	tbc	Rod@swaag.org
10-09-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Professor Charlotte Roberts	Charlotte is an expert in the field of osteoarchaeology and will talk to us about what	Sue@swaag.org

				the analysis of human bone can tell us about life in the past.	
08-10-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Miles Johnson	Miles Johnson, Senior Historic Environment Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, will give a talk about Archaeology in the Dales	Sue@swaag.org
12-11-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Founder's Lecture	Our annual talk on the subject of Roman history	Sue@swaag.org
10-12-2019			Christmas	TBC	

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Jane Towler and others for use of their celebratory photographs.