

## ARCHAEOLOGY & ARCHITECTURE GROUP KEYWORTH AND DISTRICT



### The A&A Group report for “Now we are 10” March 2019

Peter Harding, groups co-ordinator sent a message to members after the October 2018 meeting:

“In October, Keith Barton told us that he and Sheila had enjoyed leading the A & A Group for many years - almost since the beginning when the Keyworth U3A was launched nearly 10 years ago! However, for a number of reasons they need to relinquish their role from the end of this year to give themselves more time for other activities. In consequence as a Group we need to find a new Group leader: It is of course possible that the Group Leader's position could be a shared post and we shall be able to discuss this and how we can continue with what has been a very successful Group in the future. In the meantime, perhaps we could each consider how we can help to structure the running of the Group and participate to achieve this”.

### A brief history of the Archaeology & Architecture Group

**2009** The Architecture Group began. Over the first 2 years, Keith raced through time, via the built environment from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with personal comments thrown in for added spice: he has written 17 handouts as topic guides to support his presentations, available to members at cost:

‘A General Chronology’; ‘The Development of the Castle’; ‘Gothic in Britain’; ‘The Birth of the Renaissance’; ‘English Renaissance Architecture’; ‘Towards the English Baroque’; ‘The Age of the Machine’; ‘The Age of Iron and Steel’; ‘The Dawn of a New Age’; ‘The Door to the C20th’ (Mackintosh); ‘A step into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century’; ‘The Domestic House’; ‘Surface Decoration’; ‘St Pancras Station and Hotel’; ‘Venice (La Serenissima)’; ‘Nottingham Underground’; ‘The Mediterranean (Egypt)’.

Visits were arranged to Repton & Melbourne, Newark, Ludlow & Stokesay (with an overnight stay in a C17th manor house, c/o YHA), and Harlaxton.

**2011** We looked at the last 40 years, and from Brutalism to the revival of elegance in the last century and the beginning of the present. Visits included a guided tour of the Lacemarket (Nottingham Civic Society), a guided tour of the newly refurbished St Pancras Hotel; the Museum of Buildings, Avoncroft (Bromsgrove) and Hanbury Hall (NT), Droitwich.

**2012** The Archaeology Group began, looking at types of archaeology below, on and above the ground, with talks, site visits and occasional outside speakers; looking at digs, the landscape, structures and buildings, setting them in the historical context and lives of

contemporary people. Industrial archaeology was explored, considering how people worked in the past and their changed use for today.

**2013** the two groups combined:so much material was of interest to both groups of members and the topic has so much “overlap”.

The A & A programme, determined by the wishes of the group, involved talks, films, and visits to properties or sites of interest. Keith offered copies of “Archaeology Now”, “World Archaeology”, “National Geographic” and other related publications for members to borrow if they wished. A monthly newsletter was circulated to inform the group of items of interest in the national press, local events - displays at Lakeside, the Archaeology Department and the programme of Saturday Seminars at the University of Nottingham, updates about the Nottingham Castle Transformation project and other information - and to outline arrangements of meetings or planned group visits. Members were encouraged to become National Trust (NT) or English Heritage (EH) members and to use car sharing to help keep costs down. We encouraged members to send photographs and articles to the newsletter and also to the U3A webmaster, to be added to the A&A page.

Visits were arranged to Creswell Crags, Peterborough and Flag Fen, and a Tour of the Masonic Hall, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham and the Old University College Building, now Nottingham Trent University.

**2014** JKB became leader; we began with presentations from members about “Churches of France”, and “Gaudi and Barcelona”; visits were arranged to Bestwood Winding Engine and Papplewick Pumping Station (“Nottinghamshire Engineering”). Ticknall Archaeological Group (TARG) were invited to bring finds and talk on ‘Ticknall Pots and Potters’, as their site is no longer open. A visit to Hardwick Hall and Stainsby Mill commemorated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert Smythson’s death. Another to Repton for a guided tour of St Wystan’s Church combined an historical perspective on the power base of the Middle Ages and an opportunity to see the Mercian Touring Exhibition - the recently discovered Staffordshire Hoard.

Members are advised to take advantage of the New Horizons trips, too, which in 2014 included Wakefield Mining Museum. The A&A programme for the year also included seeing “Nottingham” on DVD, and a presentation by JKB on the Anglo-Saxons, and finds associated with the Willoughby dig.

**2015** we ‘visited’ Roman Northumberland, went by car to The Workhouse, Southwell (following a presentation on ‘Asylums – a place of safety or punishment?’) and a guided tour of the recently refurbished Archbishop’s Palace, Southwell Minster. There were visits to Lydington Bede and Stone Dry Church, a guided tour of the Malt Cross, St James’ Street, Nottingham, and a presentation about a unique Bronze Age site in Sardinia (“Su Nuraxi di Barumini”). Members went with New Horizons to Litchfield, and enjoyed a guided tour of the Cathedral; the Museum, Erasmus Darwin’s and Samuel Johnson’s Houses. The last visit of the year, to the newly opened Civil War Centre, Newark, concluded with a guided Civil War Walk.

**2016** Presentations by members took us further afield throughout the year with presentations about ‘Gaudi in Barcelona’, and ‘Puglia’, ‘The Romans in Tuscany’, ‘Castles of the Rising Sun’ and “An introduction to Lithuania”.

Visits were arranged to the “City of Caves”, Nottingham, Stoneywell (the latest acquisition by the NT) and another visit to St Wystan’s, Repton for a guided tour of the church and Anglo-Saxon Crypt, the last resting place of two Mercian Kings, followed by a visit to Calke Abbey (NT).

Presentations from members also included “The Black and White Trail, Herefordshire”, “Online access to the National Library of Scotland Maps”; and “A holiday with another U3A (holiday) group”; In December, U3A Archaeology Advisor Marilyn Palmer joined us. Formerly Head of Archaeology at Leicester University until her retirement [2008], her particular interest is the archaeology of the built environment. As the leader of the only U3A group which combines Archaeology and Architecture, Keith was invited to write an article for U3A Matters Sources.

**2017** The year began with “Drury Hill” an account of the excavation which JKB had led before the (previous, late 1960s) development of the Broadmarsh area, and guidance to access the latest Nottingham Caves Survey “Unknown, Virtually”, by Dr David Strange-Walker of Trent Peak Archaeology. Other presentations followed: “Five Roman Theatres” and then “Introduction to Lithuania”, later “Hard Times in Coketown” and “Hadrian’s Other Wall”. We had a guided day at Cromford World Heritage Site, and guided walks around Colston Bassett, and Cresswell Crags. Although we do not meet in August, several of us went to Nottingham Industrial Museum for an exclusive view of the Museum and an exhibition “Gone but not forgotten” about the lamented loss of the Black Boy Hotel, presented by a member of Bramcote History Society, who we invited to come to KMC the following year. The year was rounded off by some members having lunch together at “Kayal”, in Broad Street, the Lacemarket, after walking the Fothergill Trail.

**2018** A potted history and architectural study of English towns on DVD led to visits to Pugin’s Cathedral, Derby Road, Nottingham and the Mary Potter Heritage Centre, a day in Leicester visiting the Cathedral (during Science Week), the Guildhall, the Richard III Visitor Centre; and Belton House (NT). The last two presentations of the year were on “The Origins of Place Names”, and “The Parish Boundary Project”. Members will meet for a “festive lunch” in the iconic Adams Building, Lacemarket, in January.

Thank you to all those who have supported this group over the last 9 years, we hope you have enjoyed it, and that it might continue with new leadership.

*Keith and Sheila Barton*