

INSCRIPTIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea

Issue 21

August 2006

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Royal visit to the Egypt Centre

On Tuesday July 4th we had a special visit from Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. Carolyn and I came into work by 7.00am because the police needed to bring sniffer dogs to sniff around the museum as a security precaution. The morning went very well except that one of the sniffer dogs decided Carolyn's lunch was very interesting and tried to get it out of her bag to eat it! I told the dog handler the sandwich was vegan but he said the dog wouldn't mind as he even eats soap! We were allowed to cuddle the dog, who was very friendly, after he finished working!

Soon the Royal couple were due to arrive and Carolyn waited in line outside the Egypt Centre with the University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Richard B. Davies, and other invited guests to greet them. Carolyn brought them into the museum and I was introduced to them and led the way into the *House of Death* for them to meet our volunteers Gaenor Marsh and Sue Taylor and the visiting school children from Gors Primary, who were dressed in Egyptian costume, and their Head teacher Keith Atkins.

The Prince and the Duchess joined in the mummification demonstration given by Gaenor, assisted by Sue. The Prince asked: 'What's all this business about using a hook to get the brains out? That is what really worries me.' He went on to remove the grey woolly brains and then put his hand into the side of the mummy to remove the liver. The Duchess pulled out the stomach and said: 'I've got hold of something very unpleasant. I think it has legs.'

... continued overleaf



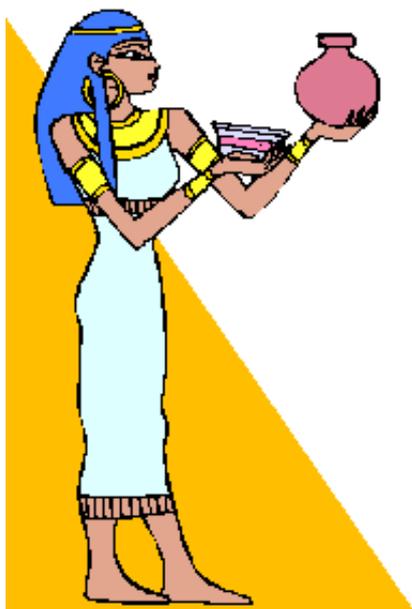


Royal visit (continued)

The party then moved up stairs to the *House of Life* and met Rebecca Shields, Peter Jones and Charlotte Coles who were standing on the landing. Then they met Graham Carlsen and Claire Edwards who took them into the gallery. The royal couple donned white cotton gloves before handling artefacts up to 2,500 years old, accompanied by a second group of children from Gors Primary dressed in ancient Egyptian costume. Child volunteer Lydia Taylor demonstrated the handling session.

It was now time for the couple to leave and as they went downstairs they had a chat with Nicki Lloyd and Joel Kinga who also did a great job. We were all very impressed as they took time to talk to everyone, including the children, and asked lots of questions. Well done and thank you to our Tuesday volunteers who came in, for all their hard work and preparation for the visit.

by Wendy Goodridge



University awards informal learning

Universities are normally considered academic centres of research and elitist ivory towers!

However..... Swansea University recognises informal learning. The Children's University Swansea Annual Award Ceremony was held in the Taliesin Theatre at the University on 23rd June 2006 and was attended by the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Swansea, Professor Rhys Williams Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university in Swansea, Robert Barbour Head of Education Effectiveness, Councillor Mike Day, Sara Harvey Head of Community Regeneration and Mervyn Lloyd Jones who leads the Children's University Cymru.

The Egypt Centre's young volunteers were presented with awards: Sarah Dugmore, Antonia Thomas-Jones, Tomos Davies, Rhiannon Waters, Rhys Davies and Adam Croucher received bronze awards while Lydia Taylor was the only child in Swansea to receive a silver award!

We are extremely proud of all our young volunteers and it is wonderful that their time and effort is recognised by earning them credits with the Children's University. I would urge all schools, clubs and groups that deliver out-of-school-hours activities to register their activities with the Children's University so the children can claim credits for their achievements.

by Wendy Goodridge
Assistant Curator, Egypt Centre



Egypt Centre Young volunteers receive awards from Children's University Swansea.

*Back row from left to right: Adam Croucher, Rhys Davies, Tomos Davies.
Front row from left to right: Lydia Taylor, Rhiannon Waters, Sarah Dugmore.
(Antonia Thomas-Jones not present)*





Editorial

Welcome to the twenty-first issue of *Inscriptions*. A big "thank you" to those who have contributed to this issue.

This has been a hugely eventful and successful year for Egypt Centre, with the loan of the Rhind Papyrus, the Conference on Sex and Gender in Ancient Egypt, the various social events—and of course our royal visit in the summer!

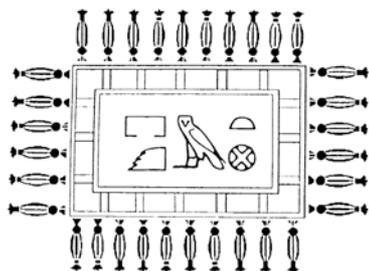
In spite of all that's been going on, we haven't been able to put out an issue of *Inscriptions* before now due to lack of contributions. Please, please, give us some material. Your editorial team will happily type up and scan almost anything, but we can't make stuff up out of nothing!

So if you've got a story to tell or an opinion to voice, some photos of your recent trip anywhere, or a burning question about an obscure pharaoh, why not send us something, however small, for inclusion in *Inscriptions*?

Contributions (which should be original, not copied from other published works which are subject to copyright) should be sent to the Egypt Centre, marked for the attention of Mike Mac Donagh.

We're looking forward to another superb programme of events starting in September!

Mike Mac Donagh



Conference 2005:

Sex And Gender In Ancient Egypt

Many congratulations are due to the staff of the Egypt Centre for the outstandingly successful conference which they organised in December. As a very humble delegate, I spent a wonderful two days enjoying the erudition of such luminaries of the world of Egyptology as Dr. Richard Parkinson, Rosalind Janssen, Thomas Dowson et al.

Delegates had travelled from many parts of the world—Israel, the U.S.A., Canada and Germany—together with delegates from all over the United Kingdom. I heard nothing but praise from all of them on the smooth organisation, the attractive surroundings of the University and the friendliness and helpfulness of all the staff involved. Over 100 delegates were catered for; accommodated where necessary; had transport organised and were provided with abstracts, delegate lists etc. All of this must have entailed many extra hours of work for the few staff of the Egypt Centre, and we should be justifiably proud of them. It is not often that conferences on Egyptology make the national press, and I was delighted to read an account of the proceedings in "The Sunday Times" a week later.

I feel sure that the success of the conference will provide us with a wide choice of speakers for The Friends in the future. Grateful thanks to Carolyn Graves-Brown, Wendy Goodridge, Stuart Williams, Kenneth Griffin and Rebecca Shields for their magnificent efforts.

by Claire Edwards

View from the Chair

Welcome to 2006! 2005 certainly finished in triumph with the "Sex and Gender" conference. Many of you attended and obviously enjoyed it. It also brought us new members whom I look forward to meeting in future meetings. The society is continuing to grow and I hope the increase in numbers will enable us to provide even more assistance for The Egypt Centre, or to at least allow them to purchase necessary equipment.



Apart from the much delayed "Taste of Egypt" event, we are planning further fund raising events, details of which will be announced at future meetings. There is currently some doubt that funding will be given, by the University, to the Outreach programme for Disadvantaged Children which takes place on Saturdays. If that funding is withdrawn, then the Friends may have to make an effort to raise more funds to replace the shortfall. We are hoping that such a situation will not arise, and have written to the Vice Chancellor urging the continued support for such a worthwhile programme. Any ideas you may have for fund raising events will be most welcome, as will any assistance/time you can afford to give.

I look forward to a happy and successful season in the coming year.

by Claire Edwards





Peter Jones achieves NVQ



Anne Davies of Swansea College presents Peter Jones with his NVQ certificate.

Egypt Centre, Swansea University, is pleased to announce that one of its volunteers, Peter Jones, has just received an NVQ in customer services. Peter is a remarkable person. Despite his learning difficulties he is a valued member of staff at the Egypt Centre, demonstrating the hands-on activities to school groups and explaining the exhibits to visitors.

Peter's NVQ assessor was Anne Davies of Swansea College. The Centre is grateful to Anne and to Swansea College for allowing Peter the opportunity to gain a qualification in the very valuable work which he does for the Centre. He makes all visitors feel welcome. Anne said 'I am very impressed with Peter's dedication. He excelled in demonstrating his customer service skills'.

The Centre strives to ensure an inclusive environment for visitors and staff. Peter first came to the Centre in 2002 with Pathways Training, Neath College. Peter was at first extremely shy but soon made lots of friends. Very soon Peter began to grow in confidence and deliver parts of this programme himself. Every volunteer commented on how meticulous Peter was in his work. An opportunity presented itself to the Centre in the form of a grant from Work Steps, which offers funding to work places in order for them to employ adults with learning difficulties. The Centre was thrilled when Peter started work as an official Egypt Centre paid member of staff on April 1st 2003.

When we have no special visits to the Centre, Peter looks after our daily visitors. At the Egypt Centre we get many 'strange' questions everyday. Peter answers visitors' questions, if he is able to, or comes and asks a member of staff who may be able to deal with their requests. He also keeps the gallery clean and tidy and makes sure that there is enough paper and pencils out for the visitors to use. During quiet periods Peter acts as security in our galleries. During these quiet periods Peter studies aspects of Egyptology and Egyptian Material Culture; he also attends our 'Masterclasses' as part of his ongoing training. He has been working through Gardiner's *Egyptian Grammar*, which helps him to read and understand Egyptian hieroglyphs! This in itself is an incredible achievement as many first year undergraduates at Swansea are not able to understand the first exercise in the book.

Many undergraduates use our galleries for part of their course work. Peter helps them find the objects they are looking for and even shows them how to use the 'Modes' programme on our gallery computer.

Peter's NVQ achievement is recognition for all the work he does. We hope he will stay with us for many years to come.

by Carolyn Graves-Brown

Wordsearch

Look at the clues below. Can you find the answers in the grid? Words can run up or down, left to right or right to left, or diagonally.

T	S	H	B	S	O	Q	A	A	K	A	S
N	E	F	E	R	T	A	R	I	M	K	C
M	T	F	R	O	R	A	Y	M	T	O	O
S	H	I	I	M	S	A	F	A	B	A	R
C	I	N	N	A	R	M	E	R	T	M	P
H	A	S	B	B	M	F	A	A	Y	A	I
E	O	S	I	Y	D	E	N	D	E	R	A
O	N	T	A	D	A	I	A	Y	E	N	N
P	E	T	N	O	S	M	Q	M	H	A	O
S	T	E	P	S	T	S	O	N	C	A	D
T	Y	T	N	E	V	E	S	C	A	R	Y
A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R	C	T	S

Solution on Page 6.

Clues

- Cleopatra VII's temple is here
- Famous for his journey to Siwa
- Its king list is in the British Museum
- Macehead in the Ashmolean
- Married to Ramesses II
- Last king of 1st Dynasty
- Nasty god
- Khufu's Greek name
- First pyramid
- Successor to Tutankhamun
- Mid 18th Dynasty style (6,3)
- Sun of Ramesses I
- Resting place of Amenemope
- Number of days required for mummification
- Mother of Tutankhamun
- A collection of mummies with no obvious link
- Sun god
- Magical goddess
- Colour of Egypt
- Egyptian animal symbol

by Su and Lydia Taylor





A wild weekend in Berlin

It started with an idea between a few friends; a couple of days away taking advantage of a low cost flight. Somewhere interesting and with an Egyptian collection. New York seemed a bit expensive, so we decided to try Berlin. Paul and Tony checked the internet and found flights from Bristol to Berlin for around £30—too good to miss. We mentioned our plan, word got around and eventually there were thirteen of us. Paul found us a four star hotel in the centre of Berlin (the old East), close to the sights and transport and which had great deals available and room for us all.

The flight was good—it took off and landed on time, which is all I ask—and on arrival we all poured into taxis for the hotel. This was most impressive—29 floors, very modern (even trendy). The staff spoke excellent English—helped by Claire's German—and were very helpful, even when I



The Berlin "Green Head"



accidentally set off the alarms.

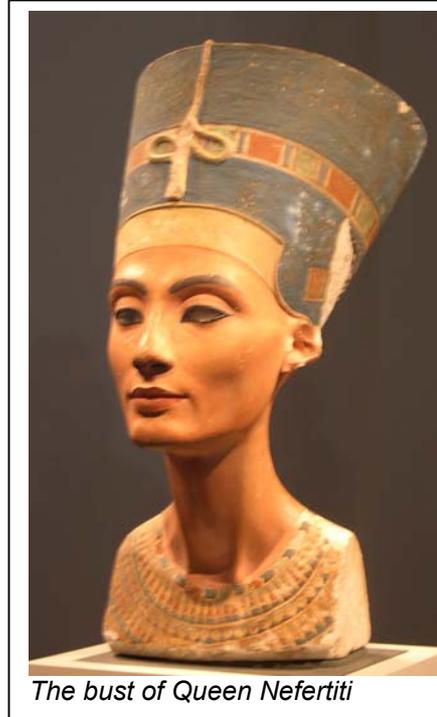
Later, my setting fire to the menu, Sue putting it out with her wine and losing Joyce at the airport all added to the fun.

Using the superb clean, punctual and cheap trains we saw on our first day, Checkpoint Charlie, the Reichstag, Potsdammer Platz (wonderful rum and chocolate) and the Brandenburg Gate (best ever apple strudel).

But the *pièce de resistance*, the icing on the cake, the jewel in the crown was the Egyptian collection. It is currently in the Altes Museum on Museum Island while a new home is being prepared in the museum next door. In spite of the temporary display, the pieces were displayed and lit beautifully. To see pieces such

as the head of Queen Tiy, the Green Head and the many objects from Amarna, which I had only seen in books, was incredible.

Towards the end of the



The bust of Queen Nefertiti

collection, in her majestic splendour, was the bust of Queen Nefertiti, wife of the heretic king Akenaten. One of the most famous pieces of sculpture in the world, she was breathtaking. The long neck and beautiful face with its high cheekbones brought a lump to my throat. It is an outstanding collection, with pieces in such good condition, and anyone with an interest in Egyptology should see it.

It ended with everyone saying they had had a marvellous time, and where were we going next.

by Sheila Nowell

Photos by Tony Nowell





Learning award for Young Egyptologist Saturday club

A Saturday club which unravels the secrets of ancient Egypt for disadvantaged Swansea youngsters has won an award for its innovative approach to learning.

The Egypt Centre at Swansea University has received the ContinYou Cymru award in recognition of its out-of-school-hours 'Young Egyptologist' project for children aged seven to 11. The children who participate in the project are drawn from schools in the city's Communities First areas.

Wendy Goodridge, the Egypt Centre's Assistant Curator, said: "The 'Young Egyptologist' project offers small groups of school children the opportunity to visit the Centre for two consecutive Saturdays. They are given various fun learning activities to do – taking the innards out of the dummy mummy to practice embalming is always extremely popular!"

"The children also have the opportunity to handle ancient Egyptian objects, dress up like ancient Egyptians to learn about the clothing they wore, and attend a 'scribe school' where they learn to write their names in hieroglyphs. There are also lots of craft activities and the children can take their work home at the end of the workshops."

"At the end of the two days we have a presentation ceremony for the children and their friends and relatives are invited to watch them collecting their certificates. Many of these children have never set foot in a museum before, let alone a university museum, and for many it is a life-changing experience."

The project, which was established in January 2002, has already successfully worked with almost 800 school pupils in the Swansea area to date.

The Egypt Centre also operates a highly innovative child volunteer project for nine to 16-year-olds. The young volunteers work in the museum on Saturdays and school holidays, giving guided tours and helping visitors with the hands-on activities.

For further information on the Egypt Centre at Swansea University visit www.swan.ac.uk/egypt.



Children from St Joseph's Primary School, Clydach, enjoy dressing up in Egyptian costume



More children from St Joseph's holding their certificates

by Wendy Goodridge

Wordsearch solution

	S					Q			K		
N	E	F	E	R	T	A	R	I	M		C
	T					A	Y	M	T	O	
S	H					A			B	A	
C			N	A	R	M	E	R	T	M	
H	A	S	B	B	M	F	A	A	Y	A	
E			I	Y	D	E	N	D	E	R	A
O		T		D		I			E	N	
P	E			O	S				H	A	O
S	T	E	P	S					C	A	
	Y	T	N	E	V	E	S		A	R	
A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R	C	T	

Answers:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Dendera | 11. Amarna Art |
| 2. Alexander | 12. Seti |
| 3. Abydos | 13. Tanis |
| 4. Namer | 14. Seventy |
| 5. Nefertari | 15. Kiya |
| 6. Qaa | 16. Cache |
| 7. Seth | 17. Ra |
| 8. Cheops | 18. Isis |
| 9. Step | 19. Kmt |
| 10. Ay | 20. Cobra |





Thank you!!

We are very grateful to the Friends for their support and generous donations, which help keep our Saturday Young Egyptology workshops for disadvantaged children running.

Since January 2002 the Egypt Centre has been running Young Egyptology workshops for children who would not normally visit a museum let alone one on a university campus! We were initially funded by the New Opportunities fund for one pilot project for seven months and for a further three years. The cost for workshops each year, including pay for staff, transport, materials and lunches adds up to approximately £6,000. We have to fundraise in order to keep running the workshops.

Fourteen children, each month, are offered a place on the 'young Egyptologist' two-day fun-packed course. Schools with a high number of children who are disadvantaged socially or economically are targeted.

The museum aims to break down barriers that hinder such children taking part and so we provide transport to collect the children from school and return them and provide a buffet-style 'party' lunch for each child.

The two-day workshop is also totally free of charge and children get a coloured folder of their completed work and a photograph of their group dressed up as ancient Egyptians. All art and craft materials are provided by the museum.

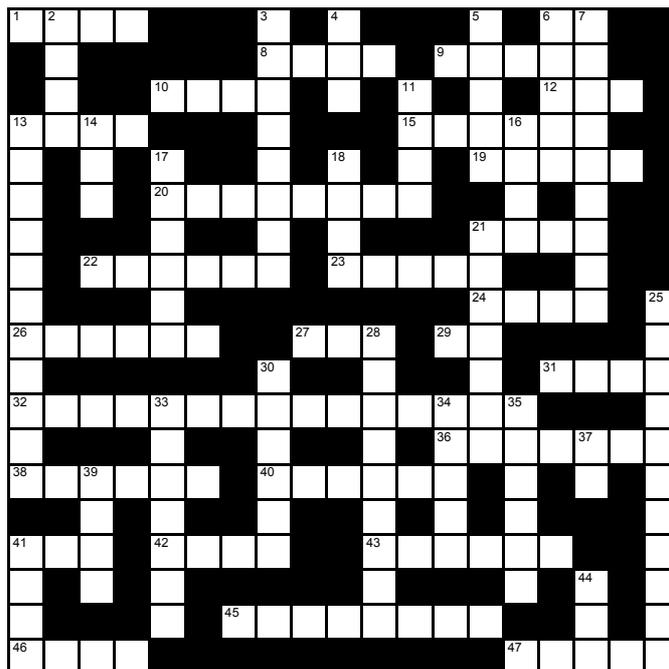
The course aims to motivate children to foster a love of learning, to increase self-esteem and confidence through a greater sense of achievement, as well as developing literacy and numeracy skills. Our child/teacher evaluation shows that self-esteem was built and many children have made repeat visits with family members to show off their knowledge. Children gained skills as well as gaining knowledge of the subject of ancient Egypt. The culmination of the course is the award ceremony to which teachers, family and friends of the children are invited to see the children being presented with a certificate of their achievement. Each child has their 'moment of glory' and schools have reported that the children's attitude to learning was transformed with an increase in motivation and attention and the quality of the children's work improved.

The course is now registered as a module with the Children's University Swansea and the children receive ten credits for attending the course.

Once again thank-you for all your support.

by Wendy Goodridge

Crossword



Across

- 1 5th Dynasty ruler with small pyramid (4)
- 6 Personality of the deceased, often represented as a bird (2)
- 8 Major Theban god (4)
- 9 God of E;ephantine (5)
- 10 King who succeeded Djer (4)
- 12 God of infinity (3)
- 13 God of chaos and confusion (4)
- 15 Sacred stone symbolising the primeval mound (6)
- 19 An Egyptian board game (5)
- 20 Site of Osorkon's red granite hall (8)
- 21 Creator-god of Memphis (4)
- 22 Cat goddess (6)
- 23 Country to the south of Egypt (5)
- 24 Hatshepsut sent expeditions there (4)
- 26 Fayum necropolis of Amenemhat III (6)
- 27 Fertility god (3)
- 29 Successor to Tutankhamun (2)
- 31 A pillar representing stability (4)
- 32 A title given to some royal women (4,5,2,4)
- 36 Name of four Dynasty 22 Libyan kings (7)
- 38 Mythical beast with body of lion and head of man (6)
- 40 A salt used in mummification (6)
- 41 God of the primeval ocean (3)
- 42 Goddess of justice and harmony (4)
- 43 A small charm worn in life or death (6)
- 45 A people who clashed with Rameses II (8)
- 46 Site of a large temple of Horus (4)
- 47 Builder of the Great Pyramid (5)

Down

- 2 A great river that flows through Egypt (4)
- 3 Rapids in the Nile (8)
- 4 Vulture-goddess (3)
- 5 Moon god (5)
- 6 12th Dynasty fort in Nubia (5)
- 7 Name of four 12th Dynasty pharaohs (9)
- 11 White bird with long curved bill (4)
- 13 Stone coffin (11)
- 14 Principal wife of Amenhotep III and mother of Akhenaten (3)
- 16 A pyramid with a change of angle (4)
- 17 Site of some 5th dynasty pyramids (6)
- 18 The sun disk (4)
- 21 Grassy plant, symbol of Lower Egypt (7)
- 25 Site of temple of Ramesses III (7,4)
- 28 Principal wife of Ramesses II (9)
- 30 Goddess of moisture, depicted as lips or a lioness (6)
- 33 Sent by Ramesses XI to fetch cedarwood (7)
- 34 Falcon-headed god of war (5)
- 35 Beautiful princess of Dynasty 3 (6)
- 37 Life-force of the deceased (2)
- 39 He has a small pyramid at Saqqara (4)
- 41 An administrative region in Egypt (4)
- 44 God of air and sunlight (3)

Solution on back page.

by Daphne MacDonagh





From workmen's kilts to the dresses of Queens

Egypt Centre Textiles (Study) Group



Some of you may have heard Rosalind Janssens's talk on Egyptian Costume to the Friends Group last year. She told us all about the garments actually found in the Egyptian tombs, including underwear, tunics and kilts.

Inspired by this, I thought others might be interested in forming an Egypt Centre textile (study) group.

So, is anyone out there interested in learning more about Egyptian textiles and possibly having a go at making some replica garments? These could be either for your own use or for use in the Egypt Centre? I would like the Egypt Centre ones to be as close as possible to the originals, however, if you want to purchase linen to make your own garments, how close to the originals you wish to go would be entirely up to you.

To start the ball rolling we have purchased some un-dyed linen with aim of making some replica costume for the Centre. The Petrie Museum has already done something on this line, so rather than reinvent the wheel, we are borrowing some replica garment from their textile expert. We are also hoping to have Rosalind Janssen come and speak to us about Egyptian costume complete with pleating demonstration.

I hoped we would be able to meet about once a month, though individual study and garment manufacture could be ongoing. At the meetings we could exchange ideas, discuss problems and perhaps have talks on specific aspects of Egyptian costume. We could also have social events.

If anyone is at all interested please contact me, Carolyn, at the Egypt Centre on (01792) 295960 or e-mail c.a.graves-brown@swansea.ac.uk. If no one is interested, I shall just have to make the garments all by myself!

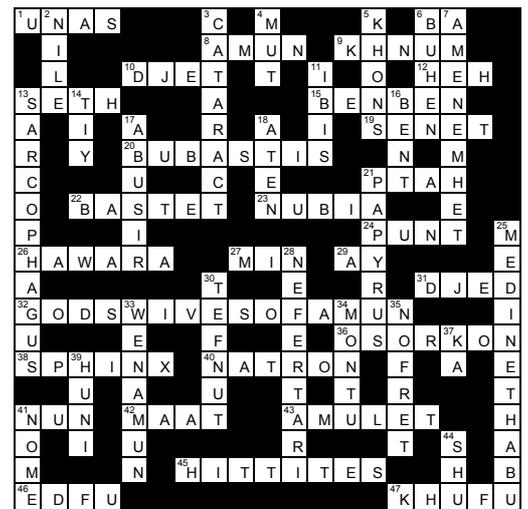
If there is a group interested, I thought we could start to meet in October.

by Carolyn Graves-Brown



Crossword solution

(see Page 7 for Crossword)



Vice President

The Egypt Centre is delighted to announce that **Dr Vivian Davies, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum**, has agreed to become the new Vice President of the Friends. He takes over from the late Professor Gwyn Griffiths who will be sadly missed. We wish Dr Davies well in this role.

Annual General Meeting

Don't forget! The AGM of the Friends of the Egypt Centre will be held on

Wednesday 27 September

in the Faraday A Lecture Theatre, starting at **6.30 p.m.** It will be followed by the first lecture of the new academic year.

Details on a separate leaflet.



