

INSCRIPTIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea

Issue 24

December 2007

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Egypt Centre shortlisted for national award

The Egypt Centre was shortlisted in a national award scheme for its excellence in encouraging people to consider higher education.

This Times Higher Education Supplement Award for the **widening participation** initiative of the year is backed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. It is awarded to the most imaginative and innovative project that encourages potential students from non-traditional backgrounds to enter higher education.

The Egypt Centre made the Times Higher Awards shortlist of just six initiatives for its volunteer programme and award-winning Saturday workshops for socially and economically disadvantaged children, which allow children who would not normally set foot in a university to develop their confidence, skills and aspirations. The workshops aim to raise standards of literacy and numeracy and, more importantly, to raise confidence in children who are socially or economically disadvantaged. Schools with a high number of disadvantaged pupils are actively targeted and approached by the Centre.



Egypt Centre staff and volunteers at the award party. Left to right: Ken Griffin, Wendy Goodridge, Stuart Williams, Sandra Hawkins, Alison John, Carolyn Graves-Brown (Curator)

... continued overleaf





The Egypt Centre also runs a successful volunteering scheme. Volunteers, whether children or people in their eighties, are not simply from the traditional educated and socio-economic volunteer pool, but include people who would not normally visit a university campus. The Egypt Centre also works with people who have mental health problems or learning difficulties, the long-term unemployed, and the economically disadvantaged.

Swansea University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard B Davies, said: "Widening participation is at the heart of the higher education agenda. We need to ensure that people from every section of society have the opportunity to go to university. The key challenge is raising aspirations and I am delighted that the Egypt Centre's success in encouraging people to think about further study has been recognised in the Times Higher Awards.

Unfortunately we didn't take first prize, but even being shortlisted is a major achievement.



Carolyn, Wendy and Stuart pictured in the Egypt Centre



Volunteers Graham, Nikki and Kim enjoying a session at the Egypt Centre

“And what exactly does the Chair of the Friends do?”

When I was first asked to take on the chairmanship of the Friends, my immediate reaction was, "No way!" I'd been there before, in other organisations, and felt that my limited knowledge of Egyptology and advancing years made me totally unsuited for the post. But, the sweet and mellifluous tongues of Wendy and Sheila persuaded me otherwise.

'But what will I have to do?' I asked plaintively. 'Oh, nothing much – just introduce the speaker, make the announcements and do the raffle.'

Well, it didn't sound too bad, but there's always a catch!

Yes, I do have to introduce the speaker etc. etc., but what I didn't realise that taking the speaker out to a meal after the talk could prove so hazardous!

Recently one of our speakers, a charming New Zealander asked me if I could drive her along the sea road. She had been brought up by the sea and was missing it dreadfully now that she was based in Central England. Naturally, I obliged and although it was dark, drove her along the Mumbles Road so that she could enjoy the lights and the magnificent curve of the bay. Then rashly, having reached Bracelet Bay, I decided to drive her along to Caswell, where she got out of the car and deeply breathed in the sea air. Satisfied, she got back in and I drove her to the Sketty area where she was staying the night. I *thought* I knew where her accommodation was, but there was no obvious signboard visible. It was now 11.30p.m. After several forays the length of Gower Road, I decided to visit 'The Vivian Arms' to ask for directions—not a good thing to do at that time of night! They didn't know where the guest house was either, but they lent me a phone book and I rang the guesthouse, only to discover that I had passed it several times.

We sped off back up the road and I felt justified at not being able to find it when I discovered that the signboard was completely obscured by trees! I deposited the speaker, apologised profusely to the guesthouse owners for keeping them up so late and went home. Nobody told me that being chair of the Friends could mean being a tourist guide!

Sometimes, I meet the speaker at the station. I am always a little apprehensive until I actually *see* them, because I drive a rather small Renault Clio. There have been occasions when a rather large speaker has emerged from the station clutching a very large backpack. Somehow, I've managed to squash the speaker and the backpack into the car and drive them safely to the guesthouse. There are also sometimes language difficulties. No, I don't try speaking to them in Welsh, but some of them have pronounced foreign accents which are not always easy to understand. It's even worse when I have to stand up at the end of the lecture and comment on the talk!

Of course none of this matters when compared to the privilege of meeting so many interesting and charming people. I enjoy showing them something of our city and coastline and am always pleased at their reaction to The Egypt Centre. The talk at the after-the-meeting dinners is stimulating and amusing, and it gives me a chance to meet the students who attend.

I know my time as chair must end, and I would say to whoever my successor may be 'Don't listen to Wendy or Sheila'. It's a lot more work than they say, but you'll have a lot of fun, learn a lot and end up in situations you never thought possible!

by Claire Edwards





Editorial

Welcome to the twenty-fourth issue of *Inscriptions*.

Congratulations are due to the staff and volunteers of the Egypt Centre for achieving the shortlist for the Widening Participation award. It is gratifying to see the Centre bringing the fascination of Egyptology to such a wide range of people.

A big "Thank You" to all those who have contributed to this issue. Sheila Nowell's article "Glimpse of a Sphinx" is most interesting. Readers may be interested to know that, very recently, many more remains of Amenhotep III's mortuary temple have been found buried under the sand at the site, including 72 statues of the goddess Sakhmet! The Colossi of Memnon are no longer the only remains of the temple. A major research project is to be undertaken at the site, which is enormous.

New material is surfacing all the time: for example, an intact First Intermediate Period tomb has recently been found at Deir el-Bersha. If you're interested in the latest archaeological news, the website <http://www.archaeologica.org/NewsPage.htm> is well worth visiting from time to time.

The Editor and his wife thank the members and Friends for their very generous gift at the AGM which was very much appreciated (and enjoyed!)

Please keep your contributions coming in! Articles for the next issue (which must be your own work, not copied from other published, copyrighted material) should be sent to Mike Mac Donagh at the Egypt Centre.

We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mike Mac Donagh

View From The Chair

With another season completed and, at the beginning of another academic year, I'd like to say that we had a feast of lectures once again, although I had thought it impossible to surpass the previous year's programme. Kenneth Griffin is to be heartily congratulated on his hard work in providing us with such a programme. His own enthusiasm for Ancient Egypt and his determination to find the best possible lecturers is obvious. Thank you Ken, for all your efforts.



An added bonus for me, as Chair, is that I get to meet the speakers on a personal level at the post-lecture dinner. It provides an ideal opportunity to discuss the Egypt Centre with them and to promote the work done at the Centre. Invariably they are surprised at the size of our collection, and the variety and quality of the artefacts. It was particularly gratifying to hear George Hart, our September speaker also commenting on the excellent displaying of the collection and the clarity of the labelling. This tribute to the professionalism of the curatorial staff is well deserved.

I am also in no doubt about the excellence of the educational value of the Egypt Centre. The many tributes from schools that have visited the Centre are appreciated, but comments from visitors invariably mention the enthusiasm of volunteers, and the excitement of handling genuine artefacts. The phrase, "I had no idea this was here, and I'm certainly going to bring my grandchildren!" is often heard from local visitors. We know that some of our young volunteers—now grown-up—have gone on to take degrees in Egyptology.

All of this makes what we do worthwhile. You, as Friends of the Egypt Centre, through your fund raising activities, subscriptions etc. contribute in no small part.

I hope you are as proud to be associated with the Centre as I am, and long may our joint efforts continue.

I wish all members a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. I look forward to seeing you all in January.

by Claire Edwards

Introducing Jayne

Hello Friends!

I would like to introduce myself! You may have seen me at the Friends Lectures but I am happy to have a new role at the Egypt Centre, I am the new member of staff in charge of the Gift Shop! I was previously a volunteer here and I am just finishing off my MA in Egyptian Culture at Swansea University.

The Egypt Centre Gift Shop will be having a 10% Christmas sale on Thursday the 6th December. There are a range of gift ideas for all budgets from hand-made Christmas cards and stocking fillers!

As many of the Friends members may not be able to make this date please see attached a 10% off voucher valid until the end of December.

Friends Discount Voucher

10% Discount on items from

the Egypt Centre Shop



Christmas Sale 2007





The National Wool Museum & Tenby trip

On June 3rd 2007 we headed west for our summer trip to visit two very different museums.

Our first stop was at the National Wool Museum at Dre-fach Felindre, near Newcastle Emlyn, which is possibly the least known branch of the Museum of Wales. It certainly deserves to be better known, and is well worth a visit. Based in the beautiful Teifi Valley, the museum was substantially updated and reopened in 2004. The area was once the centre of a thriving woollen industry with many mills operating, though it is difficult to imagine this today in this quiet and peaceful valley.

We were given an excellent guided tour by a guide who had worked in the mill since the 1960s, and although he had undoubtedly given the same tour thousands of times before, there was no hint of that in the way he demonstrated the various (often very impressive) machines and explained how the mill, and the local society, had functioned. He even showed us his grandfather's old flannel shirt—an example of an everyday woollen item which would have been produced there.

The social history of the industry was well integrated and there were many fascinating photographs with detailed explanations, so that visitors can learn a great deal even without a guided tour. The role of women in the industry was clearly an important one, and photographs and explanations make this point clearly.

At the conclusion of the tour, our guide made some interesting remarks about how the industry had gradually declined, particularly the fact that from the 1960s onwards it was felt that items made from wool lasted too long and it was not therefore suitable for rapidly changing fashions. The industry had not kept abreast, or even better, ahead of current trends at the time, but he suggested that there could soon be a new role for wool in the current environmentally aware climate.

After a little free time to have a look round on our own and have a drink and snack we then went on to Tenby.



Raw wool is carded and spun...



... and woven onto spindles ...



...and fed into a machine ...

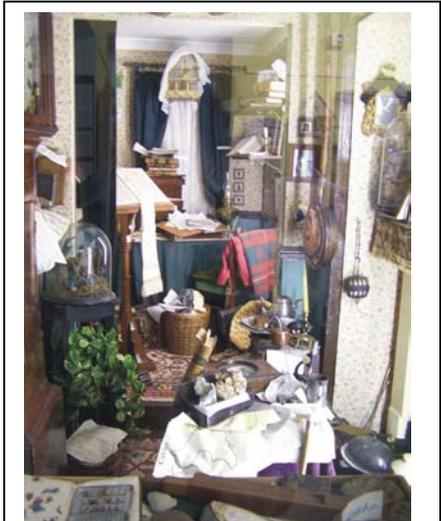


... to make the finished product!

Unfortunately, the coach had to park some way out of the town centre and we were later arriving at Tenby Museum than expected but we were still given a comprehensive tour by local guides. Tenby Museum is the oldest independent museum in Wales and was founded in 1878 by 'a self appointed committee of local retired professional gentlemen, some of whom were also amateur naturalists or archaeologists'. They acquired the old National School site which was adapted as a museum by Lewis John, a local builder at the cost of £44.12s.4d.

Part of the ground floor of the museum (housing the archaeological collections) is currently inaccessible following severe damp problems but we were able to see the rest of the building, including the Wilfred Harrison Gallery,

which houses an impressive collection of art including works by artists connected with Tenby such as Gwen John, Augustus John and Nina Hamnett.



Inside the Tenby museum

The maritime history of Tenby is well represented, as is natural history and there are also many exhibits which illustrate the social history of the town. Amongst the photographs, is one of Suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst who addressed a large crowd in Castle Square, Tenby, which the Tenby Observer of 16th July 1908 reported to be 'the largest public meeting which has ever taken place in the town.'



An early bathing costume

Following our visit, we had some free time to explore Tenby though unfortunately the rain had started in earnest by now so sitting on the beach didn't seem to be a very inviting option! But in spite of the weather, it was an enjoyable day visiting two very different and interesting museums.

by Avril Rolph
Photos by Angela M Brunt





Glimpse of a Sphinx

When I was working and had to plan holidays a year in advance my thoughts often turned to happy, carefree days of retirement when we would have no such restraints. So when a week free from grandchild minding, aged parent problem solving and sick dog requirements presented itself in August, we booked a last minute cruise to the Baltic which had three days in St Petersburg, a city I had always wanted to see. I think the romantic stories of extravagant Romanovs, sad Grand Duchesses and many Cossacks in fur hats had something to do with it.

When we awoke in the morning our ship was already moored in the River Neva quite close to the centre and we could see the gold spires of the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul, burial place of the Romanov Dynasty, St Basil's Cathedral and St Isaac's. President Putin is from St Petersburg and had held the G8 summit there so a lot had been renovated. St Petersburg itself, the city of Peter the Great and built by him as a port with access to the Baltic Sea, was really impressive, criss-crossed with canals and fronted by magnificent houses reminiscent of Venice. The Peterhof, built by him as a summer palace to rival Versailles, caused us



One of a pair of sphinxes in St Petersburg, Russia

all to comment that it was no wonder the people revolted. On our way to the Hermitage, the old Winter Palace and museum built to house the art collection of Catherine the Great, we glimpsed a pair of sphinxes on the river bank beside the Academy of Arts.

Since both our Russian guides were a bit vague when I questioned them about the sphinxes, I decided to do a bit of research when we returned home and found they had a fascinating history. They represent the 18th Dynasty pharaoh Amenhotep III and come from his mortuary temple at Thebes; their faces may even be portraits of him.

The only substantial remains in situ of Amenhotep III's mortuary temple are his two colossal statues*, which originally stood in front of the pylon. These statues are known as the Colossi of Memnon, and are a stopping off point for every visitor to

the Valley of the Kings. The statues were named after Memnon by early Greek travellers. Memnon was a heroic king of Ethiopia who was known to the Greeks for having died helping to defend Troy against the Greek

siege, and legend says that Memnon was buried at the feet of the Colossi.

The sphinxes were found by Janis Athanasi in 1820 and Champolion himself helped to authenticate them. They came from the collection of Henry Salt and were bought in Alexandria by a Russian officer called Andrej Muraviov and they were shipped to Russia, arriving in 1832. Their site—the landing stage beside the Academy of Arts—was chosen by Czar Nicholas I himself and it took Thon, the Russian architect a long time to prepare the setting for these massive sculptures, each 25 tons.

Today the sphinxes reside on two huge granite monoliths and instead of overlooking the Nile in the warmth of the Egyptian sun they look out over the Neva and have to contend with the cold Russian weather.

by Sheila Nowell
photos by Tony Nowell

Crossword solution

(crossword on Page 8)



The Colossi of Memnon, Egypt





The life and death of Amenhotep Son of Hapu

Amenhotep Son of Hapu (Amenophis) was probably born towards the end of Tuthmosis III's reign (c.1430 B.C.) and he also went by the name of Huy. He came from the Delta town of Athribis. Rising to power in the King's court, Amenophis became Overseer of all the Works of the King and, under king Amenhotep III (also often referred to as Amenophis III), he became a royal scribe and royal architect. He also became the steward to a woman called Satamon who was a wife and possibly also a daughter of Amenophis III. Huy seems to have moved to from Athribis to Thebes c.1390 B.C. where he became famous as a scribe, quarter-master general and a royal architect. He lived in Thebes until he died in his 80s. However his early career is not well known. He was buried in a rock-cut tomb at Qurnet Murai in western Thebes.

Amenophis (Huy) would have worked on some of the greatest monuments in Ancient Egypt such as the mortuary temple of Amenophis III in the Theban area and elsewhere in the Empire, for example, the Soleb temple in Nubia. On the West Bank at Thebes he would also have worked on the king's colossal statues known today as The Colossi of Memnon. When Amenophis Son of Hapu was alive, he received great honour and after death was deified for his wisdom in the Ptolemaic Period, during which he was considered as important as the great Imhotep, at least in Thebes and Athribis.

During his life, he seems to have been given the great honour of having several statues, made from granite and showing him as a

scribe, placed in the Karnak temple of Amun. One of the statues shows him as an elderly official who has survived into his 80s—a remarkable achievement since it is thought that most Egyptians only lived to their mid 30s to mid 40s. On another statue it says that he wanted to live until he was 110 years old. Huy also appears in a carved scene in the tomb of the Vizier Ramose, who, it is thought, may have been a relative.

Unlike Imhotep, whose worship was widespread, the worship of Amenophis Son of Hapu was limited mainly to the Theban area and at Athribis his birthplace. Both Imhotep and Amenhotep Son of Hapu, in later times, were linked with some important gods because Imhotep was said to be the son of Ptah and Amenhotep was said to be the son of Apis which made them primarily gods of the people. His worship seems to have grown in two stages.

Amenophis Son of Hapu was rewarded with his own mortuary temple next to that of king Amenophis III, on the West Bank of the Nile at Thebes. Building was started in the thirty-first year of the reign of Amenophis III. Huy's mortuary temple is small in comparison to that of his king but is still of some considerable size. It is as large as that of Tuthmosis III at Gurna and bigger than the temple of Tuthmosis II beside it. Amenophis Son of Hapu's mortuary temple is one of at least two private temples that are located in among the Theban royal monuments. A copy of a royal decree dating to the 21st Dynasty indicates that the Mortuary temple of Amenophis Son of Hapu seemed to have survived

for at least three centuries after his death.

During the Ptolemaic Period, Amenophis Son of Hapu's cult saw resurgence when he was worshipped as a god of wisdom and healing. As with Imhotep, the Egyptians set up chapels dedicated to him, and these were located near Hatshepsut's temple at Deir el-Bahri and at the temple of Hathor at Deir el-Medina. Statues to him were also erected in the Karnak temple. Priests offered prayers to these statues as intermediaries with Amun.

The temple of Amenophis Son of Hapu is one of the better known of the smaller temples on the West Bank of the Theban area. However, what it lacked in size it made up for in quality of construction. It was well designed with splendid decoration and has almost perfect symmetry. It has two sets of pylons with a tree lined court basin and about a dozen rooms at the back.

Further Reading

Wilkinson 2000 *The Complete Temples of Ancient Egypt*.

Wilkinson 2003 *The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt*.

Thomas 2001 *Egyptian Gods and Myths*.

Watterson 1996 *Gods of Ancient Egypt*.

Redford 1994 *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Ancient Egypt*.

website

<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/westbanktemples2.htm>

by Peter Jones

*Looking for an unusual present for someone special? Then why not visit the Egypt Centre shop!
And with the Friends Discount voucher on Page 3 you can get 10% off until the end of December.*





Making Cleopatra Sexy Again

As the continued popularity of movies like *300* attest, our modern fascination with the ancient world continues unabated. Of course, our conception of ancient Greece, Rome, and Egypt continues to get a modern facelift with each new wave of interpretation. Cleopatra VII lives again in HBO's *Rome*, albeit with some aberrations from historical record.

The TV series, filmed in Italy, produced by Americans and filled with British actors, follows the fortunes of two Roman soldiers of the Thirteenth Legion under Julius Caesar. Following a rough historical outline beginning in 49 BC, the program is both lavishly filmed and unabashed in its depiction of sex, violence, and profanity. The first season concluded with Caesar's assassination and went on to a second season that is now being broadcast on BBC2.

Cleopatra VII first appeared in the episode "Caesarion," written by William J. Macdonald. In the previous episode, Pompey Magnus (Kenneth Cranham) had been assassinated in Alexandria harbour. Egypt's monarch at the time was the fifteen-year-old Ptolemy III, who is portrayed in the episode as a capricious, self-satisfied teenager, highly made-up and vain to the point of ridiculousness. When Caesar (Ciaran Hinds) arrives, Ptolemy is at the mercy of his smooth-talking eunuch vizier and his oily regent uncles. The petty Ptolemy is delighted to present Caesar with Pompey's pickled head, but does not expect Caesar's reaction: "He was a Consul of Rome!"

Caesar decides to "arbitrate the various factions" and seeks out Cleopatra, Ptolemy's wife and older sister, despite the warnings of his

comrade Mark Antony (James Purefoy). Declares Caesar, "It's only hubris if I fail." He sends the two soldiers, Lucius Vorenus and Titus Pullo, to find Cleopatra in exile. "What a dump," Pullo (Ray Stevenson) complains. By contrast, some of the first season's most spectacular scenery is in this episode. Cleopatra, as played by Lyndsey Marshall, is physically unlike the bust portraits of the Egyptian Queen: instead, she appears to be a size 0 model in order to fit into the beautiful, if fanciful, costumes.

Cleopatra is given a hashish addiction and comes off as something of a nymphomaniac. Despite this, the program emphasizes her skills as a keen political strategist. The historical Cleopatra would have had to have been, with the deaths of her various older siblings littering her childhood. Vorenus and Pullo save Cleopatra from certain death at the hands of her brother's assassin and gain her trust. She is eager to make a positive impression on Caesar and confesses to Vorenus she intends to get pregnant by Caesar. Due to the impossibility of that, due to her position in exile, she commands the Roman soldier to impregnate her. Vorenus (Kevin McKidd) has been characterized as a to-the-letter soldier, obsessed with honor and deeply devoted to his wife Niobe. He declines, saying, "Roman men are not used by women in this way!"

The more earthy Pullo has no such qualms. As history records, Cleopatra is returned to the palace and is rolled out of a Persian carpet at Caesar's feet. Though Cleopatra was twenty-one and Caesar fifty, the two make a convincing screen couple. (Back in Rome, Caesar's lover Servilia of the Junii knows nothing of the affair.) Ptolemy is drowned along with his advisers, and in nine months, Cleopatra secures her legacy by giving birth to Caesarion. We are led to believe that he is actually Pullo's son.

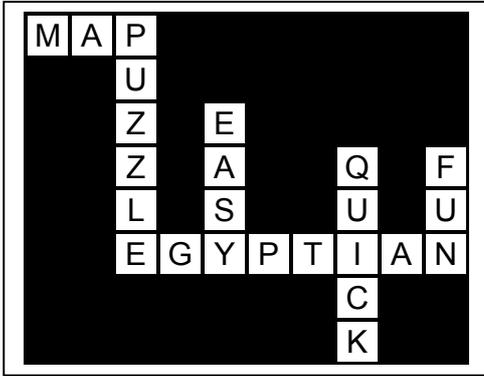
Cleopatra has already appeared in the second season, "Son of Hades" by Bruno Heller. Historically Cleopatra and Caesarion visited Rome between 47 and 44 BC; in the series they arrive after Caesar's assassination in 44 BC. In visiting Mark Antony, Cleopatra attempts to secure Caesarion's position as Caesar's heir in exchange for sexual favors, inciting the wrath of Antony's lover, Atia of the Julii, mother of the future Emperor Augustus. Cleopatra continues to be portrayed as lithe and sexy but with a shrewd political mind. We expect, should the show go to a third season, to see more of the Egyptian Queen—and possibly her son by Titus Pullo.

Bruno Heller, the creator of *Rome*, has noted his attempts to do historical justice to the period are conceptual. This Rome bears little resemblance to the squeaky-clean toga paradise of the past, instead teeming with illicit sex and frequent profanity. This may be an attempt to "sex up" the past, but at the same time seems oddly satisfying to a modern viewer. Remarkably little has been changed in terms of the chronological Cleopatra, even if her physicality has been, like the costumes, updated for a rock'n'roll culture.

The Roman characters have generally shown a disdain for Egypt and Egyptians, a believable attitude for this culture at the zenith of its powers. By contrast, Ptolemaic Egypt—with the exception of the aforementioned sleek and adept Cleopatra—is portrayed as laughable, bumbling, at the wane of its influence. If nothing else, *Rome* seems to strive to show the multiculturalism of the ancient Roman empire, a trend originating with Ridley Scott's *Gladiator*. Is a more measured, more historically accurate Egypt than seen in *The Mummy* movies on its way? In the meantime, no TV series like *Rome* has ever existed before, and it will be fascinating to follow its development.

by Leslie McMurtry





Test your knowledge of Egypt's geography with our easy puzzle!
(Hint: Try starting at 10 Down.)

Across

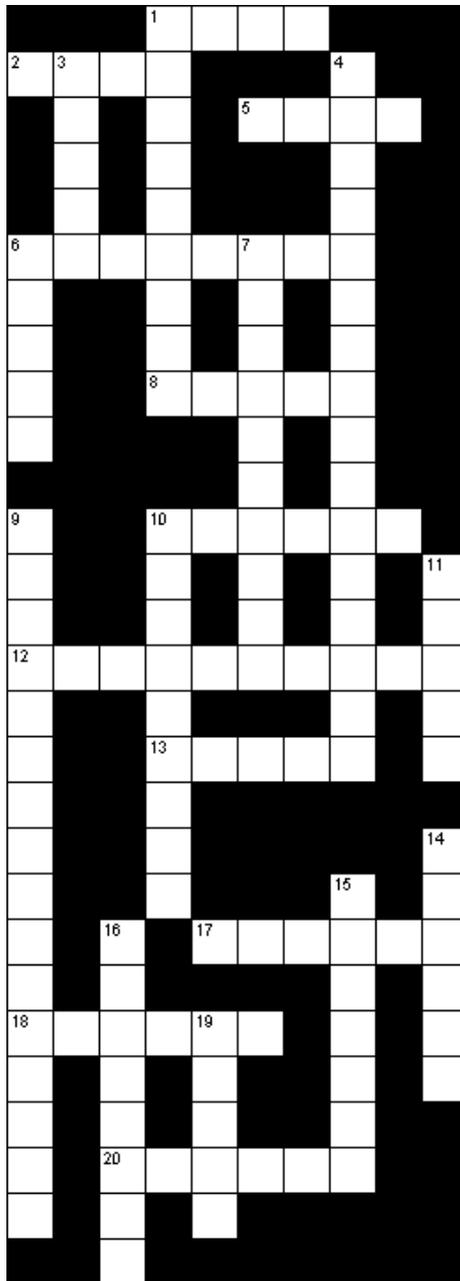
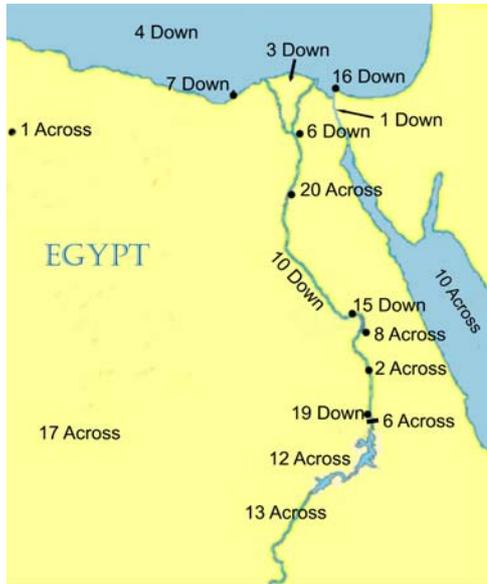
- 1 An oasis west of 6 Down (4)
- 2 Site of a large temple of Horus (4)
- 5 Sun disk worshipped at 20 Across (4)
- 6 A set of rapids in 10 Down (8)
- 8 Modern city opposite 9 Down (5)
- 10 Sea to the east of Egypt (3,3)
- 12 Man-made lake south of Aswan (4,6)
- 13 Land to the south of Egypt (5)
- 17 Sandy landscape covering much of Egypt (6)
- 18 Huge temple in 8 Across (6)
- 20 Ancient city founded by Akhenaten (6)

Down

- 1 Man-made waterway joining 10 Across to 4 Down (4,5)
- 3 Where 10 Down spreads out as it approaches the sea (5)
- 4 Sea to the north of Egypt (13,3)
- 6 Modern city near the pyramids (5)
- 7 Fine city on the coast of Egypt (10)
- 9 Burial place of New Kingdom kings (6,2,3,5)
- 10 A great river that flows through Egypt (5,4)
- 11 Falcon-god worshipped at 2 Across (5)
- 14 Cow goddess worshipped at 15 Down (6)
- 15 Site of a famous temple of Hathor (7)
- 16 Modern city at the top end of 1 Down (4,4)
- 19 Modern city at the first 6 Across (5)

(Solution on Page 5)

by Daphne MacDonagh



Dates for your diary

12 December 2007

The Reverend William MacGregor: A Tale of Antiquities, The Egypt Centre and a Portion of Fries

Bev Rogers

(University of Wales Swansea)

(followed by mulled wine and mince pies!)

23 January 2008

Politics of placement: The Development of Theban Necropolis in The New Kingdom.

J. J. Shirley

(University of Wales Swansea)

Both talks commence at 7.00 p.m. in the Faraday A Lecture Theatre.

Egypt Centre Christmas Closing Times

We close at

4.00 p.m. on
Friday 21st December
2007

and re-open on

Wednesday 2nd January
2008
at 10 a.m.

