

Friends of
the
EGYPT
Centre

Museum of Egyptian Antiquities



2016-17 Programme

Welcome



We are very pleased to share with you this interesting programme.

About us...

About the Society:

The Friends' interest in Egypt ranges from those with little or no knowledge, to those who are eagerly in search of more. An exciting programme of lectures, visits to other museums, and other social events are arranged annually to cater for all levels of understanding.

Whatever your age or level of interest why not come along and see what the Friends of the Egypt Centre can offer you?

History of the Collection:

Most of the items from the Egypt Centre were collected by the manufacturing pharmacist Sir Henry Wellcome around the turn of the Twentieth Century. When he died, in 1936, the collection was looked after by a group of trustees and housed in University College, London.

In the early 1970's, part of that collection was transferred to the University of Wales, Swansea. A small museum was set up in a room of the Department of Classics and Ancient History.

The University wished to make the collection more publicly accessible, and a grant was obtained during the mid-nineties from the European Regional Development Fund and The National Lottery, which allowed the construction of the Egypt Centre building to house the collection. The museum contains the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities in Wales.

About the Egypt Centre:

In September 1998, Swansea University opened an exciting museum of Egyptian artefacts. Over 1,000 objects dating from earlier than 3,500 BC to AD 500 are on display in two galleries. They include a coffin belonging to a lady musician from Thebes, statues of gods and goddesses, beautiful bead necklaces dating from around the time of Tutankhamun, mummified animals and a large number of everyday objects such as pottery, weapons, tools and toys. The museum has also introduced a popular under 5s area!

Why not come and visit us and try your hand at mummification or play Tutankhamun's favourite game, *Senet*, or perhaps write your name in hieroglyphs as well as handle objects, some over 50,000 years old in the 'hands on' display area.

We are open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Admission is free

For information on parking, etc. see: www.egypt.swan.ac.uk

The Committee...



The Committee comprises of:

Chair - Syd Howells l.s.j.howells@swansea.ac.uk
Vice Chair - Gareth Lucas
Secretary - Amber Furmage
Treasurer - Sheila Nowell
Membership Secretary - Wendy Goodridge w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk
Events Officer - Bev Rogers
Other members - Peter Jones, Diane Rowden, Tony Nowell

The committee is made up of local people with an interest in ancient Egypt and museums. If you are interested in joining the committee please speak to any committee member.

Membership

Full Membership	£16.50 pa
Full family membership (2 adults and 2 children)	£26 pa
Concessionary individual	£10 pa
Concessionary family	£16 pa

Membership includes free entry into all Friends lectures (non-members £3), and other offers given by the Egypt Centre. For further information, or to join please contact the membership secretary Wendy Goodridge

Tel: 01792 295960 E-mail: w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk

Meeting venue...

Swansea University Singleton campus

All lectures take place in Fulton House Room 2, unless otherwise stated.

Doors open at 6.30pm with lectures starting at 7.00pm.

By Car from the East:

1. Take the M4 heading West towards Swansea.
2. Leave M4 at junction 42
3. Take the A483 in the direction of Swansea Town Centre (passing Amazon on your right)
4. Cross the river bearing left, past Sainsburys, (A4067—Oystermouth Road)
5. Continue along A4067, upon passing St. Helens Stadium (on your right) move into the right-hand lane.
6. Straight on at traffic lights and right turn at the next set of traffic light (300m) to enter Swansea University.
7. Parking on-campus is free after 4.00pm
8. Fulton House is the central building facing the entrance to the university.
9. On entering Fulton House turn right go through first set of doors ahead is a second set of doors go through these then up the stairs to level 2
10. Room 2 is first door on the right

Public Lecture Programme

The charge per lecture is £3 for non-members and free to members.

Wednesday 21st September 2016 (this lecture will take place in Café West, Fulton House)

Dulcie Engel Independent Researcher and Egypt Centre Volunteer

Title: *Dylan Thomas and Ancient Egypt*

Abstract: Dylan Thomas's interest in Ancient Egypt is little known. He grew up in a period of great fascination with all things ancient Egyptian following Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922. This is reflected in the fact that the first poem in his notebooks, dated April 1930, has an Egyptian theme, while Egyptian symbolism crops up throughout his early short stories, and plays a crucial role in such poems as 'My world is pyramid', 'Should lanterns shine' and 'Altarwise by owl-light'. In this talk, Dr Dulcie Engel, an Egypt Centre volunteer and confirmed Dylan Thomas fan, discusses the significance of Ancient Egypt to Swansea's most famous son using examples from the Egypt Centre's collection.

Wednesday 19th October 2016

This month's lecture will follow the **Friends of the Egypt Centre AGM**, which begins at 6.30pm and is held at the same venue as the lecture. All Friends are welcome and are encouraged to attend

Dr Manuela Lehmann British Museum, Ancient Egypt and Sudan, Project Curator

Title: *Not just an Aftermath – Tell el-Dab'a After the New Kingdom*

Abstract: Tell el-Dab'a is a settlement that is well known for its Second Intermediate Period and New Kingdom houses, temples and palaces. Less well known is that this site was settled extensively in the Late and Ptolemaic Periods as well. Changes in the traditional Egyptian architecture evolve into a quite different settlement layout. New research is giving insights into a typical Egyptian settlement in the time after the New Kingdom in the Delta.

Wednesday 9th November 2016

Dr Lidija McKnight University of Manchester.

Title: *Gifts for the Gods: animal mummies revealed*

Abstract: Votive animal mummies were produced in their millions by the ancient Egyptians as a means of communication between man on earth and the divine. The paucity of literary evidence from the time for the purpose and motivation behind this practice mean that the mummies themselves remain our best source of information. At the University of Manchester, cutting edge non-destructive scientific analysis is being used to help unravel the secrets of these ancient animal mummies. X-rays and CT scans help to tell us about the contents of the bundles, as well shedding light on how the mummies were manufactured.

The award-winning touring University of Manchester exhibition, 'Gifts for the Gods: Animal mummies revealed' tells the stories of some of these mummies from the time of their manufacture c.700BC to their scientific study today. Focusing on the role of the British in the discovery, excavation, collection, curation and study of these artefacts, researchers are able to reconstruct the post-excavation histories of these mummies, helping to reveal their stories thousands of years after they were made.

Wednesday 14th December 2016

Professor Alan Lloyd Swansea University.

Title: *Akhenaten: What was he trying to do?*

Abstract: Some years ago Nicholas Reeves published a book entitled Akhenaten: Egypt's False Prophet. Other writers have treated Akhenaten more positively as a cross between Socrates and Jesus Christ. In this lecture I want to analyse the written and archaeological evidence to determine the origins of his religious agenda and its precise nature. It will emerge that, despite deficiencies in our evidence, it is possible to gain a clear picture of these issues, even though problems still remain which are insoluble without the discovery of fresh data.

Christmas Get Together: After the lecture there will follow the Friends' Christmas get together. Don't forget to pop this event into your diary!

Wednesday 18th January 2017 (this lecture will take place in James Callaghan Lecture Theatre)

Dr Ken Griffin Swansea University

Title: *Recent Excavations on Sai Island: Pyramids, Pounders, and Nimiti.*

Abstract: This lecture will discuss the work (2014-15) of the AcrossBorders Project at Sai Island, Sudan. Excavations conducted within the New Kingdom town and cemetery, including the discovery of a new pyramid, will be presented alongside highlights of the material culture from the site.

Wednesday 22nd February 2017

Dr Kasia Szpakowska Swansea University

Title: *“Child in the Nest”: Children as Agents and Patients in Pharaonic Egyptian Rituals*

Abstract: Children are a ubiquitous feature in Ancient Egyptian tomb scenes, where their role is sometimes described as passive (acting as offering bearers) and sometimes active (as mourners). Less visible is their role in household religious activities performed on behalf of the living. The young were thought to be vulnerable to the persistent onslaught of ailments, diseases, and malignant demonic entities, necessitating a range of protective spells and paraphernalia. Children could also participate in household rituals or act as malignant manifestations themselves. This presentation explores the role of children as patients and agents of religious activity in pre-Hellenistic Egypt, particularly in rituals for the living.

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Tessa Baber Cardiff University

Title: *The ‘Mummy Pits’ of Ancient Egypt: The Long-Kept Secret of Early Travellers*

Abstract: A little over a century ago, burials known simply as ‘mummy pits’ were a common and characteristic feature of Egypt’s burial landscape. These ‘pits’ contained mass burials of mummies piled-up in such great numbers, that it is surprising that they now appear to have disappeared from the archaeological record.

The only sources which appear to describe these burials are the accounts left by early travellers who ventured to Egypt between the 16th and early 20th centuries. These accounts reveal that the mummy pits were long-exploited as a source of souvenirs and for material to manufacture mummy-based products such as paper and fertilizer, providing some explanation as to why so few of these burials survive to the modern day. Although this exploitation has led to a significant loss of data, these early travel accounts provide sufficient detail to permit the reconstruction of this burial rite, as well as potentially allowing for the relocation of a number of mummy pit burials in the field.

This talk presents the results of an ongoing research project into the nature of the mummy pits, and considers whether they simply represent a collection of mass-burial events – perhaps the result of conflict or epidemic, or whether instead they may provide evidence for a now long-forgotten burial custom used by the poor in the latest periods of ancient Egyptian history.

Wednesday 5th April 2017

John Wyatt, Independent scholar

Title: *Howard Carter: The Wildlife Artist*

Abstract: Because of his later achievements, it is often forgotten that Howard Carter started his working life painting pets in the stately homes of East Anglia. One such contact led to him being recommended to Professor Francis Griffith of the British Museum to fill an Egypt Exploration Fund vacancy for a “tracer, copyist and colourist” in Egypt. Successful, the 18-year old Carter joined Percy Newberry at Beni Hasan in October 1891 and then moved on with him to Deir el-Bersheh that November. After a few months with Sir William Flinders Petrie at Amarna in early 1892, Carter returned with Newberry to Beni Hasan, as his main artist, to produce a series of coloured facsimiles, the originals of many of which are still to be found in the archives of the Griffith Institute, Egypt Exploration Society, British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum. John Wyatt has worked for several years as one of the Research

Volunteers cataloguing two of these collections, especially the wildlife paintings, and is therefore in a privileged position to tell us about those particular artistic skills of Howard Carter and how they were later honed to document his more famous discoveries.

Wednesday 17th May 2017

Alice Williams, University of Oxford

Title: *Exhibiting Ancient Egypt: The Annual Exhibitions of British Archaeological Societies 1884-1939*

Abstract: Between 1884 and 1939 the Egypt Exploration Fund (later Society) and the British School of Archaeology in Egypt held a series of annual exhibitions in London to showcase the finds of each archaeological season. These popular pop-up exhibitions drew large crowds of visitors from across British society, keen to see artefacts excavated just weeks before and to hear about the new theories and adventures of high-profile archaeologists like Flinders Petrie and John Pendlebury. Using material from the archives of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and the Egypt Exploration Society, this talk will explore this exhibitionary practice in greater detail, examining what it would have been like to visit these displays and the crucial role they played in constructing a public image of ancient Egypt and Egyptian archaeology.

Wednesday 7th June 2017

Dr Stephen Buckley (Research Fellow, Department of Archaeology, University of York) and Professor Joann Fletcher (Honorary Visiting Professor, University of York) (**this lecture will take place in Faraday A Lecture Theatre**)

Title: *From Kings' Valley to Kings College: the Makings of a Modern Mummy*

Abstract: Dr Stephen Buckley and Professor Joann Fletcher discuss ancient Egyptian embalming, their mummification of a human body donor and the results of this project to date.



Come dine with the speaker!

After most talks we take the speaker for a meal. The Patti Raj is the usual restaurant and we would love it if you could join us and come along and mingle with the speaker.

If you would like to attend a meal let one of the committee know before hand and we will book you a place.

Inscriptions - Newsletter

The Friends produce a newsletter called *Inscriptions*. We welcome contributions, whether interesting chatty snippets, or scholarly! If you would like to write an article or have any news or information you want to contribute please contact the Editor Mike MacDonagh. The success of the newsletter depends on the Friends contributions.

You can email Mike Mike_Mac_Donagh@msn.com

or post a hard copy to the Egypt Centre marked for the attention of Mike MacDonagh.

Museum Gift Shop



There's plenty to keep the children occupied, including a range of stationery, statues, toys, books, games and much more!

For adults we have beautiful jewellery including our exclusive Sarah Elam range, inspired by the styles and materials used for thousands of years.

You can find fine scarves, recycled Egyptian glass wear and replica Egyptian statues, just like the ones on display in our galleries!

Friends members get **10% off all items at the Egypt Centre Christmas Sale**. A perfect opportunity for you to buy unique gifts at great prices!

We will also have wine and mince pies to get you in the festive mood while you browse.

Wide range of gifts
perfect for
the whole family!

Volunteering Opportunities!

You can meet new friends, learn new skills, get on a career path, and have the satisfaction of helping run Wales' only museum of ancient Egypt!

The adult volunteer program runs Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 4pm and is open to anyone over the age of 18.

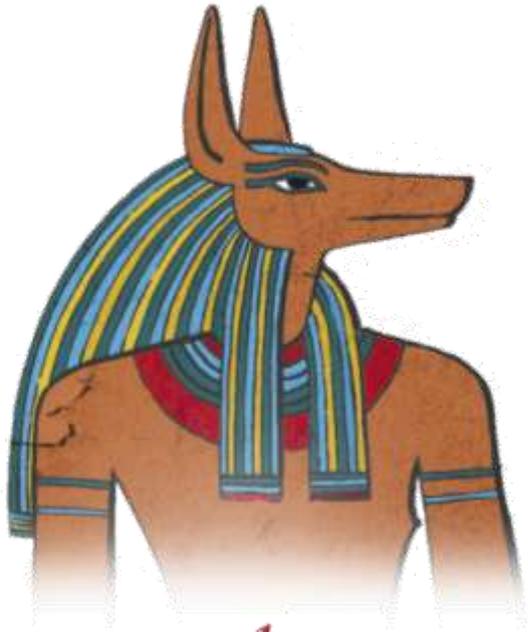
We rely on volunteers to maintain our galleries, ensuring the gallery is safe and clean and that all equipment is working.

Volunteers talk to our visitors, welcoming them, answering enquiries and giving guided tours.

They can also work as educational leaders for visiting school groups and are closely involved with the development of hands-on activities with the Education Officer. We have also recently introduced some new roles, including administration assistants who help with the basic day to day admin of the Museum.

We have special free training events for you including the opportunity to handle artefacts normally only on display behind glass and even some that are usually kept in storage!

Friends of



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2016/17 Programme



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