

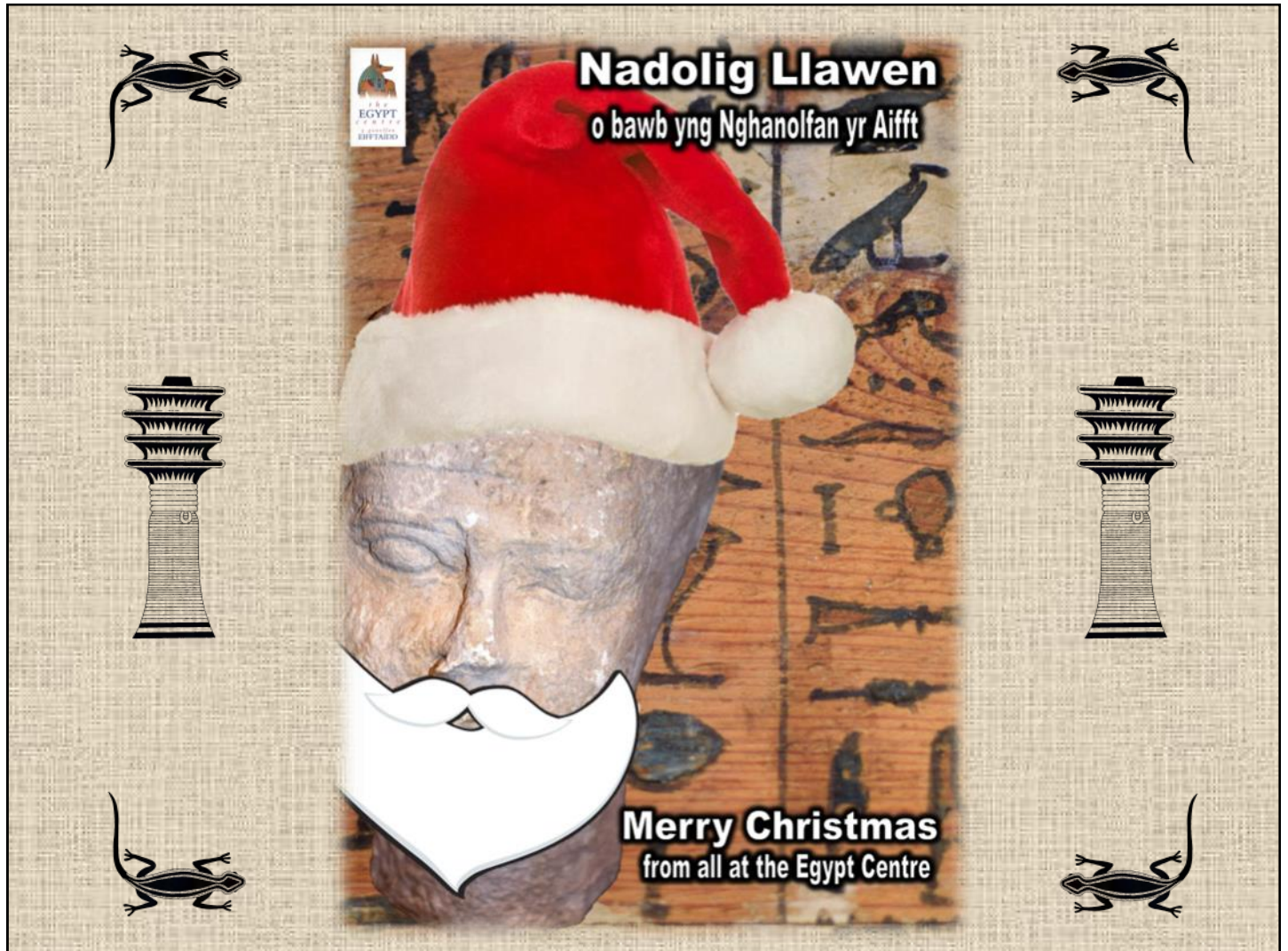


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EGYPT  
centre  
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# Volunteer Newsletter

Oct-Dec 2022

## Museum of Egyptian Antiquities



### Visions of Ancient Egypt

An exhibition with a difference at UEA, Norwich.



### The Road to the Pyramids

What is this strange structure? Luke Keenan has the answer.



### Meet the Staff!

From first, to most recent - interviews with Wendy Goodridge and Meg Gundlach.

[egypt.swan.ac.uk](http://egypt.swan.ac.uk)



# Welcome



**Syd  
Howells**

Editor in Chief

**Hello,**

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the wonderful Egypt Centre Volunteer Newsletter. As ever it is packed full of information about our museum and fascinating articles on Egyptology and beyond! Pyramids, reviews of other exhibitions, all sorts of relevant things.

A reminder also that if you wish to be the recipient of a shiny and coveted Newsletter Badge, all you must do is contribute to the next issue.

Have an excellent season of goodwill and a happy new year and we will see you in 2023.

**Syd.**



**Dulcie Engel**  
Associate Editor

A former French and linguistics lecturer, I have volunteered at the Egypt Centre since April 2014. I am a gallery supervisor in both galleries, and author of the Egyptian Writing Trails. Apart from language, I am particularly interested in the history of collecting. I won the 2016 Volunteer of the Year award.



**Rob Stradling**  
Technical Editor

A volunteer since 2012, I'm currently "resting", but maintaining my presence by assembling this organ from my virtual throne at another castle.

While of course I miss your lovely faces, the benefits of such an arrangement can be easily observed by monitoring TEC's biscuit supply levels.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or submit articles for consideration please contact:  
**[dulcie.engel@icloud.com](mailto:dulcie.engel@icloud.com)**

The Newsletter will be published every three months - Next issue due **Mar 2023**.





## Visitor Comments

"Brilliant -  
learnt lots from the knowledgeable staff."

- The Cooper Family,  
Southampton.

"Excellent and awesome!"

- Manha, Emaad & Raed,  
Basel, Switzerland.

"Slayed so hard! #no-crisps-allowed"

- Caitlin & Chloe,  
Bristol.

# Office News

In October our Learning & Engagement Officer **Hannah Sweetapple** went to the *Kids in Museums* 'Family Friendly Museums Awards' ceremony in London.

The EC made the final shortlist of 4, which is a great achievement. We received a score of over 80% from our mystery visitor!

Also in October, Hannah married her fiancé Luc, so congratulations and best wishes to them both!

## Visitor Figures

Total in-person visits are  
as follows:

### September

**1,486**

### October

**1,875**

### November

**1,403**

Congratulations to the *Friends of the EC* for winning the *British Association of Friends* (BAFM) Impact Award 2022. Here is Ken with the certificate and cheque for £1000:



## Volunteer of the Month

**Sept '22**  
Dulcie Engel

**Oct '22**  
Frank Norton &  
Kian Murphy

**Nov '22**  
Lee Rayner



# Meet the Practicum Class of 2022!

Every September, a group of undergraduates entering their final year come to the Egypt Centre to undertake the Practicum module as part of their degree. This is part of the module description:

*CLE327 Egyptian Collection Practicum - This 4-week session provides practical experience for students on site. Additionally, through working in an actual museum environment students will understand the philosophies behind museum work as well as some of types of work which are available. This module is useful for students pursuing careers in archaeology, museums, heritage studies, data analysis, and those wishing to pursue post-graduate work in Egyptology.*

- (Swansea University website)

This year, I asked the Practicum students how it went:



## **Rose Kearney**

I chose this module because I have always had a love and fascination for museums, and what a better module than one that combines my degree scheme and my love of museums. Throughout the module I learned so many new and fascinating things from how to make a children's activity that fits within an education curriculum to the history of many of the items, that I would normally not have given a second glance. I also loved learning about Senet, which quickly became one of my favourite activities to do.

Learning all these new things will help me in the long term because I want to go into the public history/ museology field and this was a great stepping stone for experience in working in a museum where the objects are from over 2000 years ago and how to work with children and make museums a fun place for them as well.





## Midori Takahama

I chose to take the Egypt Centre Practicum module because I had already been working as a volunteer during my 2nd year and I wanted to learn more about what it means to work in a museum and look after collections.

Despite already having been a volunteer, I have learned a lot over the course of this module. In particular I've learned more about preventative conservation and museum ethics, as well as how to plan and present an activity-based lesson that is both fun and educational.

This module has also given me the opportunity to improve as a volunteer by improving my confidence when it comes to running public activities that I wasn't as confident about last year: for me that was the mummification activity.



## Katie Morton

I chose to take part as I thought it would give me valuable experience and knowledge in the museum sector. I am hoping to go on to do conservation for my masters, so understanding how museums use preventative conservation in their day-to-day running is valuable knowledge.

I really enjoyed my time and learnt a great deal throughout the month; such as how fun senet is to play, and the importance of continuously updating your knowledge - you never know what you might get asked by a visitor.

A personal highlight was when a group of international visitors were discussing the ear plugs that are on display in the House of Life. One of the ladies noticed I have stretched earlobes, and came to me when they had questions on how these ear plugs would have been worn, and how they would have stretched their ears. Whilst I did not have the exact answers for them, I was able to use my own personal experience to give them a general idea.

Compiled by: Dulcie Engel







...to understand an area of ancient history I've never really encountered before. I have met new people who are both friendly and knowledgeable.



...to learn about a body of archaeology of which I had little experience. The atmosphere here is a breath of fresh air, friendly and inclusive, and I feel like I have found my tribe!





## Meet The Volunteer

### *June Godwin*

**I come from:** King's  
Langley, Herts (after the end  
of the war!)

**I started volunteering:**  
May 2015.

## I chose to volunteer because:

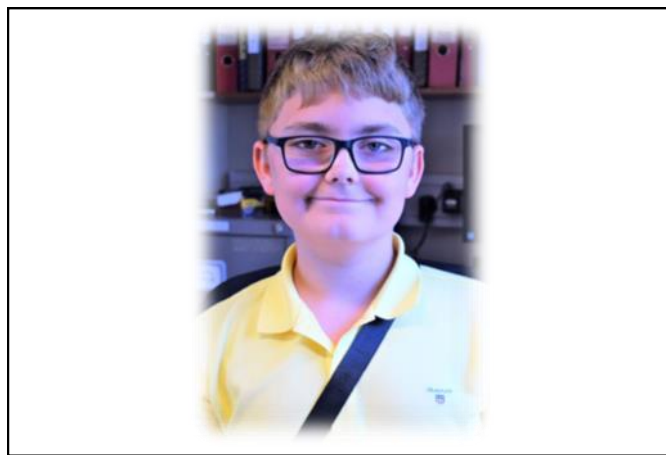
I like to increase my knowhow  
and all I missed out on  
growing up.

### My Favourite artefact is:

The metals made into good artefacts in the House of Life.

## Volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me...:

...to meet like-minded people,  
to learn and enjoy the time  
here.



# Meet The Young Volunteer

**Ethan**

**I come from:** Neath.

**I started volunteering:**  
August 2022.

## I chose to volunteer because:

I love ancient Egypt, and history!

### My Favourite artefact is:

Wooden Headrest (W370, Materials Board).

## Volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me...:

...to learn more history, and  
become more responsible.







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May your  
days be  
Merry  
and  
Bright

# CHRISTMAS

## EGYPT CENTRE GIFT SHOP

We have a unique  
range of Egyptian  
inspired items  
including beautiful  
handmade jewellery,  
glassware, toys, gifts,  
and stocking fillers  
perfect for your  
Secret Santa.

10% off  
**DECEMBER 1-23**  
TUESDAY – SATURDAY  
10AM – 4PM



Prifysgol Abertawe  
Swansea University



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service  
The MBE for volunteer groups



tripadvisor



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May your  
days be  
*Merry  
and  
Bright*

# Y NADOLIG

## SIOP ANRHEGION Y GANOLFAN EIFFTAIDD

Mae gennym ystod  
unigryw o eitemau sydd  
wedi'u hysbrydoli  
gan yr Aifft gan gynnwys  
gemwaith hardd a wnaed â llaw,  
llestri gwydr, teganau, anrhegion,  
a phethau i lenwi hosan  
y Nadolig - perffaith ar  
gyfer eich Siôn Corn Cudd.

Gallwch fwynhau 10% oddi  
ar y pris ym mis

### RHAGFYR 1-23

DYDD MAWRTH – DYDD SADWRN

10AM – 4PM



Prifysgol Abertawe  
Swansea University



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service  
The MBE for volunteer groups





# Meet Our Assistant Curator



From left to right: Wendy, Carolyn, Syd

Meet our assistant curator, **Wendy Goodridge** :

**Hello Wendy, as the longest serving staff member, and first volunteer, I'm sure the readers would like to about your association with the EC... so perhaps you could outline your career so far?** I watched the EC being built, as I was a student of Ancient History and Egyptology. After I graduated in 1997 Professor Lloyd, Head of Department, sent me over to meet the Curator, **Carolyn Graves-Brown**, and I started my volunteer journey! I volunteered almost full-time until I was employed officially as a Museum Assistant in August 1998 and soon after my title was officially changed to Assistant Curator. During this time I started a distance learning MA in Museums Studies at **Leicester**, using the Egypt Centre as the subject for all assignments.

**What does the post of assistant curator of the EC encompass?** In the early days (1998!) the post was a typical curatorial post: there were only two members of staff and I assisted Carolyn in setting up the Egypt Centre from scratch. I had the amazingly privileged role of curating cases, selecting and researching objects, writing labels etc. I took the lead with the education programme for schools, working with local school teachers and following the curriculum, introducing our schools programme with hands-on activities. In the beginning we had three activities in each gallery but this quickly grew and a teachers pack with lots of choices was developed. I roped in family members to make our quirky hands-on equipment including the dummy mummy and the senet board! I used to lead school groups too along with an amazing group of volunteer leaders, some of whom, like **Simon Tootell**, took the lead developing the teachers pack, writing up step by step guides and helping me train and assess volunteer leaders. As time went by and more staff were employed it was wonderful for Carolyn and me to have our first Gift Shop Assistant, **Terry Brown** (1999), to take over shop duties, a Volunteer Officer, **Stuart Williams** (2000), to take over running the volunteer programme and an Education Officer, **Jayne Holly** (2013), to take on the role of developing the education programme. This meant I had more time for other exciting things like the budget! Today my role is

more museum management. I need to make sure the museum supports the university in its strategic vision and policy. I lead a professional team with responsibility for ensuring the core aims of the museum are met: Preservation of the collection, Education, and Widening participation.

**What are your stand-out memories from your time here?** There are so many and some I cannot divulge! Here are three: An exhausted Carolyn and I quietly walking around the museum after we had finished all the cases and display boards ready for the official opening in 1998 is a special memory for me! Also the time we had a royal visit and the police and sniffer dogs had to come in at 6am in the morning to meet Carolyn and me so they could check our lockers etc. The very friendly police dog ate Carolyn's vegan sandwiches! After the visit to the Egypt Centre the then Royal Highnesses **The Prince of Wales** and **The Duchess of Cornwall** left with other dignitaries to attend a cream tea with the VC and the other university staff who had hosted their visit. Our very kind volunteers, who were at the event, blindfolded Carolyn and me and led us to the Education area to reveal a surprise cream tea with fizzy wine as we hadn't been invited! My last stand-out memory was being awarded the highly commended *Mary Williams Award* at a graduation ceremony; I had been nominated by Carolyn and Syd in secret! (see photo above).

**Do you have a favourite object (or objects)?** I have such wonderful memories of being entrusted to curate the amulets case by **Anthony Donohue**, who was employed as the consultant Egyptologist in 1997 for the opening of the museum. This has always been my favourite case and my favourite object is **W233** a beautiful green steatite heart scarab inscribed with Chapter 30B Book of the Dead.

**What are your hopes for the EC going forward?** That it will continue to be an award-winning museum that puts access for all ages and abilities at the heart of all its work and continues to encourage and enable those from disadvantaged areas to participate in the life of the university.

**Do you have any special message for the volunteers?** Thank you all so much! Our museum holds many treasures but our volunteers are the gold treasure we hold, and we value and appreciate all your hard work. I am proud to have been the very first volunteer at the museum in 1997 and without volunteering at the Egypt Centre I would not have gained museum skills and had the opportunities I have had to be in the post I love. Warning: The Egypt Centre is a bit like Hotel California for some "You can check out any time you like but you can never leave"!

Interview by: Dulcie Engel







# Visions of Ancient Egypt

**Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia**

**3 Sept 2022 – 1 Jan 2023**

This is an exhibition with a difference in the world of academic Egyptology. Of course it features many national and international loans, including some beautiful pieces from the Sainsbury permanent collection. However, the exhibition sets out to unpack some of the long history of European expeditions to find the treasures of Ancient Egypt. More than that, it explores the powerful impact these forays, expeditions and military campaigns have had on the culture, the imagination and the commerce of Britain.

This is done through beautifully presented artefacts, historic documents, early photographs and art. Many of the exhibits explore the growth of popular myths and misunderstandings around the best-known characters in the story of Ancient Egypt, such as Cleopatra, Nefertiti and Tutankhamun. However, it was refreshing to be reminded that there has been more than one wave of Egyptomania in Britain. Napoleon's invasion of Egypt brought both scientific and scholarly awareness of the ancient Kingdom and lots of general delight in crocodiles and pyramids! I loved the early Wedgwood display with its inaccurate urns and crocodile lids on teapots and sugar bowl covers. Even Lord Nelson, the hero of the Battle of the Nile, received a commemorative sword complete with gold crocodile pommel!

In the late 1800s when Egypt was, in all but name, a British colony, the great and the good were buying 'Egyptian style' furniture from Liberty's store. They were also wearing evening dresses and exquisite jewellery based on such motifs

as lotus flowers, palm trees and designs from temple decorations.

But in this centenary year, the work of Carter and the discovery of the boy king in the Valley of the Kings are given a prominent space. There is a good selection of contemporary photos, but I was most excited by the large number of watercolours by Howard Carter. They are very skilled and reveal a sensitive feeling for the wildlife that he observed around the digs. A reminder that the ancient Egyptians covered the walls of many tombs with stunningly beautiful paintings of wildlife.

The final part of the Exhibition focuses briefly on modern Egypt and the ways in which its people continue to seek out ways to live with their hugely important past. This exhibition has much to say to social and cultural historians about the ways in which we continually reinvent our visions of Ancient Egypt. It is not a conventional Egyptology approach but I would remind you that it comes from a county and a university campus where the old Norfolk motto is still honoured – 'Do different!'

**Written by: Marian Whitehead**

*Marian is a supporter of the Egypt Centre living in Norwich. She has visited the museum, and has attended various Zoom tours and talks by Ken, and talks hosted by the Friends of the EC.*



# Where Have All The Mummies Gone?

From September, sharp-eyed volunteers and visitors will have noticed that some of our most popular artefacts are not on display. This is because they have been loaned to *Epping Forest District Museum* (EFDM) in **Waltham Abbey, Essex**, for their special exhibition on Animal Mummies.

The museum is housed in a Tudor building, and its collection of over 100,000 objects includes prehistoric stone tools, equipment from industrial, agricultural and domestic settings, paintings, costumes, jewellery and toys.

## The Loan

It is quite an honour for the EC to be asked to loan artefacts for a special exhibition. It brings prestige and publicity to both the museum which loans, and the one which borrows, and ensures a wider geographical audience. Furthermore, it will not have escaped your attention that various museums in the UK and further afield are putting on Egyptian-themed exhibitions this autumn and winter to coincide with the bicentenary of **Champollion's** decipherment of hieroglyphs from the Rosetta Stone in October 1822, and the centenary of **Carter's** discovery of **Tutankhamun's** tomb in November 1922.

This is the complete list of the artefacts which have been loaned to EFDM:

- **AB77a & AB77b** (Votive offerings case) - Mummified cat, the head separate to the body.
- **EC308** (Animals case: plus hologram and 3D printout of head) - Mummified snake.
- **W527** (storage) - Mummified hawk, with head separate to the body.
- **W528** (storage) - Mummified bird.
- **W529** (Animals case) - Cat mask containing some of the skull.
- **W530** (Animals case) - Mummified cat.
- **W531** (storage) - Mummified hawk.
- **W535** (Animals case) - Mummified hawk, which is still inside its coffin.

## The Animal Mummies exhibition

*'Visit the museum to uncover the story of Animal Mummies. Travel back in time through the catacombs of Egypt to find out all about the history of Animal Mummies, how scientists and archaeologists today have uncovered their hidden stories. Find out more about this story through adventure trails, interactive displays and the amazing objects never before seen at [Epping Forest District Museum](#).*

*'In the first room, visitors explore the landscape and religion of Ancient Egypt, with display cases dedicated to the stories of Horus and Bastet. We have Egypt Centre objects related to each deity' (**Ian Channell**, e-mail communication, 4/10/22).*



Animals& Gods: including our mummified hawk in its wooden coffin.  
Photo: I. Channel, EFDM





*'In the second room, we have a case of objects which have been analysed with 3D Computed Tomography by Prof. **Richard Johnston** and his team at Swansea University' (Ian Channell, e-mail communication, 4/10/22).*

In 1995, a cosmetic container (**BM2569**) was loaned to the *M. C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta* for an exhibition 'Reflections of Women in the Egyptian Kingdom'.

As part of the *Swansea Festival* Exhibition in 1996-7, the *Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea*, hosted 'The Face of Egypt', which showcased Egyptian artefacts from *Cyfartha Castle, Carmarthen Museum, Swansea Museum* and our collection. *Wellcome Collection* objects on loan included **W917** (gilt cartonnage mask), a papyrus sheet from the *Book of the Dead* (**W867**) and some of the **Amarna** necklaces **W 8,9,10**). This was just 2 years before the museum was re-named The Egypt Centre and given a designated building. The illustrated exhibition catalogue is available in the EC gift shop.

In 2008, 14 objects were loaned to the *Royal Museum of Cornwall, Truro* for their exhibition, 'Masters of Mathematics', including **EC159** (a length of rope) and **AR50/3499** (an Arabic glass weight).

In 2011, our mummy portrait **W646** was loaned to the *National Archaeological Museum, Madrid* for their 'Fayum Portraits + Adrian Paci: No Visible Future' exhibition.

You can use the *Abaset* online catalogue advanced filter function to find out whether an object has been loaned out to an exhibition.

Written by: Dulcie Engel

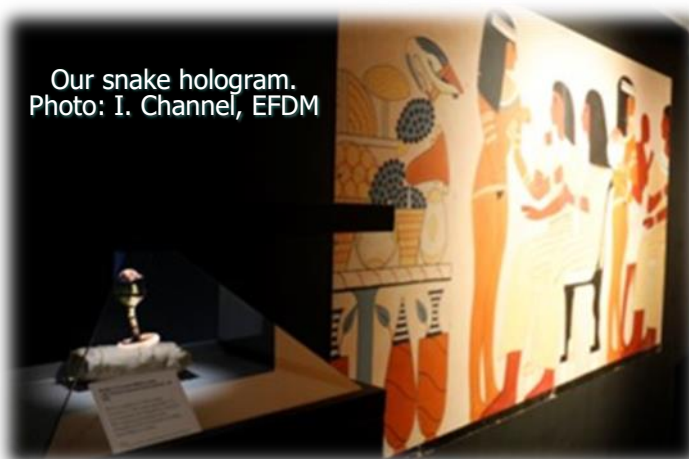
*With thanks to **Ken Griffin** for giving me details of the loan, and Ian Channell, museum collections officer, EFDM, for answering my queries and sending photos featuring EC objects in the exhibition.*

*See also Ian Channell's October [blog](#).*



CT scanned mummies including our snake and cat. Photo: I. Channel, EFDM

The exhibition has proved very popular so far: in the first two weeks (17-30/9/22) there were 94 combined adult/child visitors and in total 335 visitors (adults, children, and other adult group meetings). Not surprisingly, the snake mummy and associated hologram are a big pull for visitors.



Our snake hologram. Photo: I. Channel, EFDM

### Other loans from the EC

This is not the first time artefacts have been loaned from the collection for a special exhibition:

Back in 1980, various objects were taken to the *University of Aberystwyth* for an exhibition called 'Y Llong' ('The Ship') to coincide with the awarding of a prize for a novel of that title which had an Ancient Egyptian theme. The then honorary curator, **Kate Bosse-Griffiths**, listed the loaned objects in her 1980-81 daybook. They include a boat (possibly **W361**), bandage, beads, a shabti, an alabaster vessel, masks and a cartonnage coffin fragment, most probably **W944**.



# Disease of the Ancient Egyptians

This article will explore some of the diseases which were prevalent within Ancient Egypt. We will also explore how these diseases and other ailments interacted with the environment, particularly the Nile and surrounding area. Using sources from several different papyri will also enable us to look at some of the treatments that were adopted by the Ancient Egyptians.

Whilst the Nile was the main source of water for drinking, cooking, and washing, it also harboured parasites and other creatures that were less beneficial to health. One of these parasites was the guinea worm which could be ingested through drinking water. The female guinea worm would travel to its preferred site, usually the host's legs, and lay her eggs. Some of the earliest known evidence of guinea worm disease comes from the *Ebers Papyrus*, an ancient Egyptian compilation of medical texts dated to about 1550 BCE. The texts described the process of extracting the worm from the body by winding it around a stick. It is worth noting that even as recently as the mid-1980s there were still approximately 3.5 million cases of infection a year. This has now dropped to just 15 during 2021.

Ancient Egyptians suffered with other infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, kidney stones, snake or scorpion bites and poliomyelitis.

There is evidence of tuberculosis being present in ancient Egypt at least 5500 years ago, as mummified remains dated to 3400 BCE have been discovered which clearly show

evidence of tuberculosis lesions. In addition to the mummified remains there is also evidence of tuberculosis being illustrated on tomb paintings and sculptures.

**Dr Augustus Granville** was the first person to perform a scientific autopsy on a mummy. He carried out this procedure on the mummified remains of a woman called **Irtysenu**, who had lived and died at **Thebes** in approximately 600 BCE. It was estimated that she was about 50 years of age at the time of her death. From the autopsy performed, Granville concluded that Irtysenu had died from ovarian cancer. It should be mentioned, however, that this conclusion as has also been questioned since the autopsy took place.

The Ancient Egyptians also suffered with kidney stones. Interestingly though, the Egyptologist **Elliot Smith**, who studied approximately 9000 mummies, found evidence of only two bladder stones. It is quite possible therefore that kidney diseases, whilst common in the general population at large, were not so common within the wealthy or more elite members of the population whose bodies were preserved through mummification as opposed to lower classes who could not afford such procedures. Therefore, contemporary evidence or conjecture can only be drawn from the remains which have been preserved. The oldest stone found was in the remains of the pelvic bones of a teenage boy buried around 4800 BCE. No evidence survives of





surgical treatment for bladder stones in Ancient Egypt.

Snake and scorpion bites were also quite common occurrences during Ancient Egypt and in general terms there were two kinds of treatment to cure and alleviate the symptoms of bites. Magical treatment as outlined on the *Metternich stela* (Chapter five) detailed how the Ancient Egyptians recognised that a toxic substance (*metuf*) presented indicators such as abdominal pain, difficulty in breathing as well as other excruciating symptoms. One of the two methods applied was casting the poison onto the floor through magical practices, whilst the other was by applying a knife to the wound and cutting the venom out.

Poliomyelitis, now referred to as Polio, is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the polio virus. The virus spreads from person to person, it is highly infectious, and is transmitted either through faecal-oral transmission or by ingestion of food or

water contaminated by human faeces, or via the oral-oral route. The infection can infect the person's spinal cord and results in paralysis.

Research has revealed that the Ancient Egyptians would have been aware of this disease, its symptoms and the unfortunate effects it would have presented. A stela dated from 1500BCE has been discovered that depicts a priest called **Ruma** as having one leg shorter than the other and having to use a stick for mobility.

The mummified remains of Pharaoh **Siptah** (circa 1205BCE to 1187BCE) have revealed that his left foot was severely deformed and the leg itself was shorter than the right leg. Similar results can also be seen from the mummified remains of **Khnumu Nekht** (2500BCE).

Written by: Donna Thomas

(An annotated version of this article, with full references, can be found on [The Egypt Centre website](https://www.egyptcentre.org.uk/).)

## Egypt Centre Calendar

### Celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

#### Order your 2023 calendar today!

To celebrate 25 incredible years of the Egypt Centre we are pleased to offer our very first annual calendar, highlighting some of the 'wonderful things' within the collection.

Brighten up your home or office with a different Egypt Centre artefact each month, and plan your year ahead with space to jot down your important reminders.

#### Special Offer!

**Calendars are only £4** (plus postage if needed).

To order your calendar please speak to a member of the Friends committee or contact the museum directly.

Phone: 01792 602660

Email: [egyptcentre@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:egyptcentre@swansea.ac.uk)



# Friends of the Egypt Centre



Our speaker for the Friends of the Egypt Centre for October was the lovely **Peter Rowland** focusing on "The Egypt of Harold Jones". This was our first hybrid event (with delegates attending both online and via *Zoom*), and we would like to thank attendees for their patience waiting for the lecture to start after Peter got stuck in traffic, and a big thank you to Peter for starting as soon as he arrived after a stressful journey.

**Harold Jones** was born on 7th March 1877 to **William Jones & Mary Anne Sprake**, and educated at the *Queen Elizabeth Grammar School* in **Carmarthen**. Peter walked us through Jones' career, including starting work with Egyptologist **Theodore Davies** in **Luxor**, and how he died on 10th March 1911 in Luxor, where he was buried.

Peter also highlighted two objects in the Egypt Centre collection associated with Harold Jones. The first, **SM.1959.3.2**, is a fragment of a glass vessel, dating to the Eighteenth Dynasty, and coming from **KV35**. The fragment is part of a larger vessel now in the *Cairo Museum* (**CG 24804**). The second object associated with Jones is **SM.1959.3.9**, a sample of gold leaf coming from the burial goods of Queen **Tiye**, also Eighteenth Dynasty and from the **Valley of the Kings**.

Once again, the *Friends of the Egypt Centre* would like to extend their thanks to Peter Rowland for a fantastic lecture.

Written by: Sam Powell

## Upcoming...

**18 January 2023**

### **Htmyt, "Place of Destruction": A locality of Punishment in the Netherworld.**

Amr Gaber.

*There are several places to punish the dead in ancient Egypt and one of those places is called **htmyt**. This talk will throw light on this locality, and will show how the dead were punished, and who controls it.*

**15 February 2023**

### **Conservation of Artefacts from the Egypt Centre.**

Phil Parkes & MSc Conservation Practice Students - Cardiff University.

*The talk will highlight the recent conservation work carried out on Egypt Centre objects including the plaster base of the **Djedhor** statue, papyrus fragments from the **Book of the Dead**, a stone stela, a wooden boat model and a bone knife.*

**29 March 2023**

### **Statues from the Karnak Cachette.**

Jen Turner.

*This talk will take some fascinating examples from the cachette to explore how elite statues and their accompanying inscriptions shed light on how people continued to engage with their gods...*

Check the Friends' website for further information, and more dates:

[egypt.swan.ac.uk/about/friends-of-the-egypt-centre/](http://egypt.swan.ac.uk/about/friends-of-the-egypt-centre/)



For further information or to become a member please contact:  
**Membership Secretary Wendy Goodridge:**  
01792 295960 [w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk)





# The Road to the Pyramids



As some of you might know, I have been quite keen on having **Pyramids** taught in the Egypt Centre. Well, I am pleased to announce that this project has been green lit! It will take a lot of work and there is no concrete date for when it will be ready, but I thought you would all like to hear about the stages planned!

**Stage 1** was delivering a general talk on Pyramids to the adult vols which happened one evening in November. Then I hope to deliver the talk in early January to the young vols on a Saturday morning. At some point I will do a recording of this talk if I can find the time so it can go up on the *YouTube* channel.

**Stage 2** Pyramid Activity. I have acquired a box of plastic straws and connectors and brought them in one Saturday. The young vols split themselves into teams and were instructed to create the tallest structure they could. The winner was *Team Quacks* with a structure 16 cubes high! Well done to them!

**Stage 3** is being worked on right now and will be a holiday workshop, all about... Pyramids!

Once these stages have been completed, I am hoping to take all the experience from the previous stages to create a schools Pyramid activity. What will this be? Which gallery will it be in? Will it even happen? It's too early to tell now. But I would absolutely love to hear from you all with any suggestions or ideas you might have about this.

Please email me at:

[luke.keenan@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:luke.keenan@swansea.ac.uk)



Written by: Luke Keenan



# Meet Our Collections Access Manager

## Met our new Collections Access Manager,

## Meg Gundlach:



**Hello Meg, I'm sure the readers would like to hear about your association with the EC... so perhaps you could outline your career so far?** I'm originally from **Wisconsin** (USA)... just like Sir Henry Wellcome! I came to Swansea in 2006 for my Master's degree, and the tour of the Egypt Centre on a campus visit was a huge reason for my choice of schools. I stayed on for my PhD and have had the pleasure of over 15 years association with the Egypt Centre through both research collaborations and the Friends committee. When I'm not in Swansea, you will usually find me on excavation in **Sudan** or Egypt. I've worked in the **Delta, Abydos, Luxor, and Aswan** as both an Archaeologist and as the Small Finds Registrar, so Collections Access Manager is a perfect next step!

**What does the post of CAM of the EC encompass?** In addition to documenting and caring for the 6000+ objects in the Egypt

Centre collection, the Collections Access Manager is the connection point between the university, the public, and the museum when it comes to objects. I am here to help facilitate appointments to study objects, provide information/documentation, and host handling sessions. Working with objects has always been my passion and I really enjoy providing those opportunities for other people now.

**What are your stand-out memories from your time here?** My favourite moments are always the events, when everyone gathers together to share their research or celebrate an achievement. The Egypt Centre has always had an amazing community environment. I hope to see / meet everyone soon now that in person events are picking up again!

**Do you have a favourite object (or objects)?** The Shabti Fragment of **Padiamenopet (W161)**. I met Pedi (as I affectionately call him) in my first week in Swansea, when I asked for advice on 'underappreciated' objects to write a paper on. I was instantly smitten and wrote my Master's on the same man. Throughout, I'd been collecting information on his shabti corpus, which eventually became the topic of my PhD thesis. Fast forward.... err, some years... and I am still finding more examples all the time.

**What are your hopes and plans for the collection going forward?** Well, it's probably no surprise that as Collections Access Manager I hope to make the collection as ACCESSIBLE as possible. The Egypt Centre has a truly remarkable range of material culture. In addition to making it available for handling or study sessions, digitalising documentation is a major goal to make the museum objects known and discussed worldwide.

**Do you have any special message for the volunteers?** Please don't hesitate to reach out or stop me if you see me around the museum. I have likely met most people in passing in the past, but I am always open to reintroductions. I so appreciate all the hard work the volunteers do!

Interview by: Dulcie Engel





# 100 Years On - Tutankhamun at the EC



We also have about 15 faience ring bezels featuring the prenomen (throne name) of Tutankhamun, **Nebkheperure**. Some are on display in the Amarna case, HOL.

*(photos by Dulcie Engel of gift shop items & Bob's mask)*



# Egyptology in The News



## A new push to restore treasures to Egypt

**Zahi Hawass** has launched a petition to bring back 3 important treasures from Europe to Egypt: the Rosetta Stone in **London**; the **Nefertiti** bust in **Berlin**, and the **Dendera** Zodiac ceiling in **Paris**. This is at a time when we are becoming more aware of the issue of colonial looting, and the importance of restitution.

## Dried up branch of Nile offers up secrets

A team of geographers headed by **Sheisha Hader** of *Aix-Marseille University (France)* have analysed pollen grains from land near the dried up **Khufu** branch of the river. An analysis of vegetation patterns and nearby volcanic activity has shown the state of the climate over the last 8000 years, including the period when the pyramids were built. It would have been possible to divert water into the Khufu channel and build a harbour for the supply of building materials.

## Plastic pyramid sends a message

Under the auspices of the NGO *VeryNile*, volunteers have constructed the world's largest plastic pyramid from a quarter of a million plastic bottles collected from the Nile, to raise awareness of plastic pollution in the river. The bottles will be recycled into textiles.

## More evidence that Nefertiti is buried in Tutankhamun's tomb?

British Egyptologist **Nicholas Reeves** has claimed that cartouches indicating **Tutankhamun** being buried by his successor, **Ay**, had been painted over cartouches of Tutankhamun burying Nefertiti, which would suggest she was buried there.

## Saqqara: more and more wonderful discoveries

**Ola El Aguizy**, emeritus professor of the faculty of archaeology at *Cairo University*, has discovered a giant granite sarcophagus at the bottom of an 8-metre shaft belonging to **Ptah-em-wia**, Chief of the Treasury of King **Ramses II**. The burial chamber and sarcophagus appear to be undisturbed. And on 4th November (a significant date: see below), archaeologists working under Zahi Hawass unearthed a trove of 300 intact New Kingdom coffins with their mummies, including that of a woman wearing a solid gold mask. They were found in a series of 22 interconnected tunnels. Furthermore, a pyramid identifying a new queen, **Neith**, was also discovered. Also, traces of Halloumi-type cheese have been found inside large vessels, dating back to the 26th and 27th Egyptian dynasties.

## Luxor hosts prestigious catwalk show; and Ancient Egyptian style is star of Arab fashion week

Italian menswear fashion brand **Stefano Ricci** celebrated 50 years in the business with a catwalk show at the temple of **Hatshepsut**. The company had published a book about Luxor 20 years ago, and considers Ancient Egypt as the inspiration for real luxury. Italian tenor **Andrea Bocelli** also took part, performing an aria from **Verdi's** opera *"Aida"*, which is set in Egypt.

Meanwhile at Arab Fashion Week in **Dubai**, Filipino designer **Michael Cinco** showed off his designs against a backdrop of images of ankhs, statuary and ancient tombs. For the finale, a model dressed as Nefertiti appeared in a stunning robe with a 3-metre train covered in beads.

## Smugglers thwarted at Nuweiba Seaport

The customs and security authorities at the port seized a cargo vehicle designed to transport fruit, but actually containing a Roman era statue of the goddess **Aphrodite** and 1,752 antique coins from the Ptolemaic and Roman eras, many of which were minted in **Alexandria**.

## Art: an obelisk in Giza

As part of the Egyptian art exhibition *Forever is Now 2*, Emirati artist **Zeinab Alhashemi** has created *'The Unfinished Obelisk'*, a skeletal steel structure half-covered in recycled camel hide, inspired by the incomplete obelisk in the quarry at **Aswan**. The camel hide echoes the colour of the surrounding sand, and the triangular sections of hide reference the nearby pyramids.

## 4th November 2022: Centenary of discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb

IN LUXOR: A three-day conference was held from November 4th till November 6th: *'Transcending Eternity: The Centennial Tutankhamun Conference'*. The *Luxor Museum of Ancient Egyptian Art* held an exhibition entitled *'The Golden King Tut'*. **Carter's** dig house on the west bank of the Nile was also re-opened in a special ceremony after renovations. A giant illuminated model of Tutankhamun's death mask was installed at the start of the *Avenue of the Sphinxes*, which links **Luxor** Temple to **Karnak** Temple.

IN CAIRO: The *Egyptian Museum* in **Tahrir Square** hosted an exhibition entitled *'The Centenary of the Discovery of King Tutankhamun's Tomb: Tutankhamun and His Family'*, displaying 18 artefacts belonging to the pharaoh, some for the first time.

IN THE UK: the Royal Mint issued a special coin to commemorate the centenary. Designed by **Laura**





**Clancy**, the coin's reverse features a profile of Tutankhamun's gold mask, with an edge inscription reading '*The Valley of the Kings*'. The *Royal Mail* has issued a set of 8 stamps featuring some of the most stunning artefacts from Tutankhamun's tomb. And a new exhibition at the *Petrie Museum* in London, '*Tutankhamun the Boy: Growing Up in Ancient Egypt*', also marks the centenary. At **Highclere Castle** (seat of the Earls of **Carnarvon**), Highclere Castle Spirits is releasing a limited edition, barrel-aged gin to commemorate the centenary.

### Tutankhamun's jewellery

It is believed that some missing jewellery from the tomb was stolen by Howard Carter. Professor **Marc Gabolde** of *Paul-Valéry University, Montpellier*, France, has examined **Harry Burton**'s photographs of finds from the tomb taken in the 1920s and compared them to pieces found in museums and on auction sites. Gabolde was able to virtually re-construct a broad pectoral collar, pieces of which are in various known and unknown locations. Some sections are in the *Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art* in **Kansas City, Missouri, USA**; other beads have been restrung and appeared for sale at *Christie's* in 2015 (the anonymous sellers were not able to sell them).

### COP 27 in Egypt: logo references the Aten

At the summit held in **Sharm El-Sheikh** this November, the logo chosen for the 27th session of the *Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27)* depicts the African sun embracing the sun disc **Aten**, whose rays ending in hands shine on a new horizon (see Amarna case).

### Is Cleopatra's tomb about to be revealed?

Archaeologist **Kathleen Martinez** from the *University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic*, believes that **Cleopatra** and her lover **Mark Antony** were laid to rest within the ancient *Taposiris Magna Temple*. A six foot high, mile long tunnel has now been found beneath the temple, and could lead to Cleopatra VII's tomb.

### Tattoos for protection in childbirth?

A recently published study by **Anne Austin** (*University of Missouri, USA*) and **Marie-Lys Arnette** (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA*), working on material from **Deir el-Medina**, appears to indicate that tattoos were used as protective magic during childbirth. In particular, they have found tattoos with wide symmetrical designs on the lower back and inner thighs of female mummies and female figurines.

### 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever': a universe inspired by Ancient Egyptian Mythology

In the film, the Wakandan pantheon includes three Egyptian-inspired gods. The panther goddess **Bast** is based on the Egyptian cat goddess **Bastet**. **Ptah**, the Egyptian creator god, supplies fictional metal alloys to the Wakandans. **Thoth**, the Egyptian god of knowledge, is also worshipped.

### Bathhouse discovery

A Polish team of archaeologists have discovered a 2,200 year-old bathhouse in **Berenike** on the Red Sea. The bathhouse originally comprised two circular structures, called 'tholoi', with fourteen bath tubs, fed by two large reservoirs connected to a well.

### Face to face with the 'Mysterious Lady' mummy

The mummy from **Thebes**, a female in her twenties or thirties, had previously been identified as pregnant at the time of death, by researchers on the *Warsaw Mummy Project*. Now, her face has been reconstructed with the help of forensic scientists, and the images displayed as part of an exhibition at the *Museum of Silesia* in **Katowice, Poland**.

### The queen's knees?

At the tomb of **Nefertari** in the *Valley of the Queens*, partial human remains were found inside the smashed sarcophagus. Recent analysis of mummified leg fragments show that they belonged to a woman of middle age or older, about 5'5" in height. Furthermore, signs of arthritis and arteriosclerosis suggest she was probably aged between 40 and 60 when she died. There was also evidence of embalming elements common during the 19th dynasty. So it is highly likely the knees belonged to the queen herself.

### Tel el Farain: colonnaded hall unearthed

In the north of Egypt, at the New Kingdom era temple of **Buto**, dedicated to **Wadjet**, an Egyptian archaeological team have found the hall, which was probably added to the temple during the Late Period. The columns were decorated with papyrus drawings. They also found ceramic vessels, parts of a stone frieze, a limestone slab showing the figure of the deity **Nahbet**, and a stone cabin used to store vessels for sacrificial offerings.

### Spain: Hathor fragment discovered

The ceramic gold-leaf fragment was unearthed this summer by archaeologists at the *University of Salamanca* at the 2700 year old site of *Cerro de San Vicente* in central **Spain**. It is believed to be inlay depicting the hair of the goddess **Hathor**.

Compiled & Summarized by: Dulcie Engel



# Ancient Egypt beginning with B Word Search



BA  
BADARIAN  
BANDAGE  
BASTET  
BEAD  
BEARD  
BEE  
BEER  
BELL  
BERENIKE  
BEZEL  
BIRD  
BOAT  
BOWL  
BRACELET  
BREAD  
BUBASTIS  
BULL  
BURIAL

Words can appear horizontally, vertically and diagonally in any direction



*the*  
**EGYPT**  
*centre*  
*y ganolfan*  
EIFFTAIDD



# WE WANT YOU!

We need gallery and education volunteers to help run our museum

For further details email the Volunteer Manager on [l.s.j.howells@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:l.s.j.howells@swansea.ac.uk)

[egypt.swan.ac.uk](http://egypt.swan.ac.uk)