

Alnwick U3A  
Archaeology Group  
**Xmas Quiz – December 2020**

UK. Not a million miles from here. Yes on a slope.



A1

**ANSWER:** Roman milecastle ruins, Gilsland, on Hadrian's Wall

2

UK. Not a million miles from here



A2

**ANSWER:** St Cuthbert's Cave, near Belford

3

Where in Northumberland is this?



B1

# Answer to B1

## **The Corbridge Lion**

The Corbridge Lion, Northumberland, England, is an ancient Roman free-standing sandstone sculpture of a male lion standing on a prone animal (possibly a deer) on a semi-cylindrical coping stone base. Measuring 0.95m in length by 0.36m in width and 0.87m high, it was originally a piece of decorative funerary ornamentation from a tomb (symbolising the conquest of Death over Life). It was subsequently re-used as a fountainhead by passing a water pipe through its mouth. It was found in a water tank in 1907 in excavations led by Leonard Woolley on Site II (a corridor building with tessellated floors, hypocausts, and painted wall plaster that has been suggested as a mansio or posting station) on the Roman site at Corbridge. It is believed to date from the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD. It is now in the on-site Museum at Corbridge.



Where in Italy would you find this?



B2

# Answer to B2

## **The Nuraghi at Barumini, Sardinia**

The archaeological site of Su Nuraxi di Barumini in Sardinia is the best-known example of the unique form of Bronze Age defensive complexes known as nuraghi. The elevated position of Su Nuraxi dominates a vast and fertile plain to the west of the municipal district of Barumini. The site was occupied from the time of construction of nuraghi in the 2nd millennium BCE until 3rd century AD. These are unique to Sardinia. Nuraghi are characterised by circular defensive towers in the form of truncated cones built of dressed stone with corbel-vaulted internal chambers. Nuraghi are considered to have initially been built by single families or clans.

Where in Greece would you find this?



B3



## Answer to B3

### **The Gorgon Medusa on Corfu.**

This was one of two identical pediments on the Temple of Artemis on Corfu, Greece, built in around 580 BC in the ancient city of Korkyra. It is now in the Archaeology Museum in Corfu Town. These pediments were located at the front and back of the temple. Only the western one survives in good condition, while the eastern pediment lies in fragments. The pediments were decorated with mythical figures, sculpted in high relief. They feature a large relief of the Gorgon Medusa, more than 9 ft. high. The pediment measures 9 ft. 4 inches high at the centre.

Apparently, it is unusual for Artemis not to be depicted on the pediment of her own Temple, and Medusa may represent the demonic side of Artemis. The function of the Medusa and panther figures is believed to be to ward-off evil and prevent it from entering the temple.

## Somewhere in the UK - 1 of 2



C1

## Somewhere in the UK - 2 of 2



C1

# Answers to C1

## • TINTAGEL, CORNWALL

- These are what remain of a stronghold from 5th to 7th century and site of a later castle dating to 12th century. It was built on a promontory, which is now an island.
- This castle, at Tintagel in Cornwall, dates from about the 5th to the 7th century it was an important stronghold, and probably a residence of rulers of Cornwall.
- It was most likely the memories of this seat of Cornish kings that inspired the 12th-century writer Geoffrey of Monmouth to name it in his History of the Kings of Britain as the place where King Arthur was conceived, with the help of Merlin. At the same time, Cornish and Breton writers linked the love story of Tristan and Iseult with Tintagel.
- In turn, these associations with legend led the hugely rich and ambitious Richard, Earl of Cornwall, to build a castle here in the 1230s. The site was of no military value – legend alone seems to have inspired him to build here and long after the castle had fallen into decay, its mythical associations kept interest in Tintagel alive.
- Of archaeological importance are the many fragments of luxury pottery imported from the Mediterranean and left behind by those who lived in the stronghold.



## Something a bit controversial in England

C2



# Answers to C2

## • THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD

- **1. This is a Gold and Garnet lentoid plate and is part of the Staffordshire Hoard**
- **2. It was discovered in 2009 in a field near Lichfield in Staffordshire, which in the 7th century was in the Anglo Saxon kingdom of Mercia.**
- **The hoard was purchased jointly by the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery (where I visited) for £3.285 million under the treasure act of 1996.**
- **3. A few facts about the hoard:**
  - The Hoard is the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon metalwork yet found.
  - It was most likely deposited in the 7th century and contains artefacts probably manufactured during 6th and 7th centuries.
  - There's over 3,500 items, amounting to a total of
  - 5.1kg of gold
  - 1.4kg of silver
  - 3,500 pieces of garnet jewellery, over 90 swords and a helmet. It is all of extremely high workmanship.
  - This piece is a Gold and Garnet lentoid plate and its use is unknown. It could be part of a helmet or armour decoration, it could have been used on a man or a horse.
  - The artefacts are all military and no objects are specific to female uses.



## A piece of German history

**Answer:**

Given to our son by  
a friend of his who  
was in Berlin shortly  
after the Wall was  
being demolished  
and is a part of the  
Wall.

Sally H.



D1

## A part of Alnwick history closer to home

D2

### **Answer:**

Bob dug this up in our garden when he was clearing it. Lots of bottles had been hidden all over the garden, mainly wine or whiskey ones, and this was a bottle that had been made in Alnwick as is impressed on the bottle. It also has a glass stopper which could probably tell you roughly how old it is!

Sally H.



on the beach

**Answer:**

Found about 20 years ago on Hauxley Beach. It is a fossil of a fern type plant. You can see where the stems came out of the stalk.

Sally H.



D3

# The oldest city in Germany



E1

# Answers to E1

## **OLDEST CITY IN GERMANY**

Trier is purported to be the oldest city in Germany and was one of the residences of the western Roman Empire.

The Porta Nigra or Black Gate is the largest roman city gate north of the alps.



# A Northern Treasure!!

E2





# Answers to E2

## **THE NORTHERN TREASURE**

This is Corbridge and the treasure is the Corbridge Hoard which was one of the most significant finds in Roman History, providing a fascinating insight into the life of a soldier on Hadrian's Wall.

## The forgotten land - 1 of 2



E3



## The forgotten land - 2 of 2



E3

# Answers to E3

## **THE FORGOTTEN LAND**

The 7,000-year-old trees are at Hauxley, once part of an ancient forest beneath the North Sea which was part of Doggerland – hence the forgotten land.

# What is the connection with Northumberland?



E4

1 of 2



## What is the connection with Northumberland?



E4

2 of 2



# Answers to E4

## **WHAT IS THE CONNECTION WITH NORTHUMBERLAND?**

This is the Arch of Septimius Severus in Rome.

Septimius travelled to Britain in 208 AD, he strengthened Hadrian's Wall and re-occupied the Antonine Wall.

What was discovered in 2015 in this Tuscan town?



E5

1 of 2

What was discovered in 2015 in this Tuscan town?



E5

2 of 2

# Answers to E5

## **WHAT WAS DISCOVERED IN THIS TUSCAN TOWN IN 2015?**

Only a few hundred metres from this site in Volterra lies another amphitheatre which for nearly a thousand years lay forgotten under a field within the ancient Etruscan walls.

From the initial survey in 2015 it was evident that the amphitheatre was intact, the dig resumed in July 2020.

Britain. This may look a bit different now!



F1



# Answers to F1

## **Verulamium – St. Albans, Hertfordshire**

Verulamium, also called (Celtic) Verlamio or Verlamion, pre-Roman and Romano-British town in the territory of the Catuvellauni, (from Belgium) across the River Ver from what is now St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England.

Before the Roman conquest, Verlamion was the capital of Tasciovanus, king of the Catuvellauni (c. 20 BC–AD 5). The Romans occupied the site with soldiers in 44–45 but built a regular town, which may have been a municipium, by 50. This town was destroyed in AD 60–61 by Boudicca (Boadicea), queen of the Iceni, and was rebuilt 15 years later, under Vespasian, to whom the new forum was dedicated in 79. An inscription mentions the governor, Julius Agricola, Tacitus's father-in-law and the subject of his *Agricola*. Among the ruins of Verulamium are the forum, a theatre associated with a Romano-Celtic temple, a market hall, two triumphal arches, fragments of the town wall, and many well-appointed houses with fine mosaics and wall paintings. Devastated by a fire under Antonius Pius, the city again was rebuilt before the end of the 2nd century. St. Alban was martyred here c. 208–209. The site was deserted in the late 5th century. The growth of a new settlement in nearby St. Albans has left the Roman town open to excavation.



## Asia. Was this really once a port?



F2

# Answers to F2

## **Ephesus Turkey, Ancient City of Ephesus Ruins**

Founded by Athens as a colony in the 10th century BC; when first founded, people dedicated the city to the Goddess Artemis who is known as maiden huntress goddess of Greek culture. Artemis is more than this in Ephesus as Ephesus is not only a Greek settlement but also it was an Anatolian settlement. Artemis was a goddess of Fertility, goddess of giving birth shortly; Artemis was the Mother Goddess of Ephesus who controls every single inch of the city. During the Classical Greek era, Ephesus was one of the 12 cities of the Ionian League. The city flourished after it was given to the Roman Republic by Greek King Attalos III in 133 BCE.

During the Roman Empire era, Ephesus enlarged and flourished so lived its golden age and became one of the biggest cities of the ancient world. Ephesus' economy was fed by port trade and idol trade of Artemis. As Ephesus dedicated to mother goddess Artemis, Ephesians built a gigantic temple for her and this temple became the centre of her belief, which certainly helped the city's economy too.

This city was one of the gates of Asia to Europe this opportunity made Ephesus also an early biblical city of Christianity. During 1AD the city was visited by St. Paul and St. John. During missionary visits, apostles Christianized the city of Ephesus. This was not easy and many people were persecuted by pagan believers to protect the Artemis culture and the gigantic income of Artemis idol trade. Ephesus became one of the bishops of Christianity and survived for a long time as a Christian city.

Ephesus was destroyed by Goths during its history, also the local river Cayster River (Küçük Menderes) silted up the port of the city. Big earthquakes and malarial mosquitoes finally finished Ephesus sometime between the 6th and 10th centuries. The site was completely abandoned after the 14th century. After the city was abandoned, it was covered naturally in time and most of the city was buried by dust and dirt. Archaeological research in Ephesus started in 1863, when British architect John Turtle Wood, sponsored by the British Museum, began to search for the Artemision. In 1869, he discovered the pavement of the temple and stopped excavation in 1874. In 1895 German archaeologist Otto Benndorf resumed excavations. In 1898, Benndorf founded the Austrian Archaeological Institute which plays a leading role in Ephesus today.

Europe. Did they leap over bulls here?

F3



# Answers to F3

## Knossos

Knossos was undeniably the capital of Minoan Crete. It is grander, more complex, and more flamboyant than any of the other palaces known to us, and it is located about twenty minutes south of the modern port town of Iraklio.

Knossos was inhabited for several thousand years, beginning with a neolithic settlement sometime in the seventh millennium BC, and was abandoned after its destruction in 1375 BC which marked the end of Minoan civilization. The first palace on the low hill beside the Krairatos river was built around 1900 BC on the ruins of previous settlements. It was destroyed for the first time along with the other Protopalatial palaces around Crete at 1700 BC, probably by a large earthquake or foreign invaders. It was immediately rebuilt to an even more elaborate complex and until its abandonment was damaged several times during earthquakes, invasions, and in 1450 BC by the colossal volcanic eruption of Thera, and the invasion of Mycenaeans who used it as their capital as they ruled the island of Crete until 1375 BC.

Arthur Evans, the British Archaeologist who excavated the site in 1900 AD restored large parts of the palace in a way that it is possible today to appreciate the grandeur and complexity of a structure that evolved over several millennia and grew to occupy about 20,000 square meters. Walking through its complex multi-storied buildings one can comprehend why the palace of Knossos was associated with the mythological labyrinth.

According to Greek mythology, the palace was designed by famed architect Dedalos with such complexity that no one placed in it could ever find its exit. King Minos who commissioned the palace then kept the architect prisoner to ensure that he would not reveal the palace plan to anyone. Dedalos, who was a great inventor, built two sets of wings so he and his son Ikaros could fly off the island, and so they did. On their way out, Dedalos warned his son not to fly too close to the sun because the wax that held the wings together would melt. In a tragic turn of events, during their escape Ikaros, young and impulsive as he was, flew higher and higher until the sun rays dismantled his wings and the young boy fell to his death in the Aegean sea. The Labyrinth was the dwelling of the Minotaur in Greek mythology, and many associate the palace of Knossos with the legend of Theseus killing the Minotaur.

The Greek myth associated with the palace about Theseus and the Minotaur is fascinating, but walking around the ruins of Knossos today it is hard to imagine



A 2018 short walk. Lets stop for a "----"



G1

**Answer:** Blawearie Cups and rings

37

A 2018 short walk.  
We might need a "----" to get us over the pain.

G2



**Answer:** World War two Pill box, on the walk over to the cup and ring marks on the brow of the hill, looking South West.



## Northumbria's equivalent to Stonehenge.



**Answer:** The Duddo Five Stones

G3

## To the East of Africa



G4

1 of 2



## To the East of Africa



G4

2 of 2

# Answers to G4

**St. Georges Rock Church, Ethiopia.**

Sheila A. visited Ethiopia last year.

Now it is a war zone. They have bombed two airports in the North where Sheila landed. Blown up a dam, now they have no electricity and no telephone communications.

# UK - Up North



H1



# Answers to H1

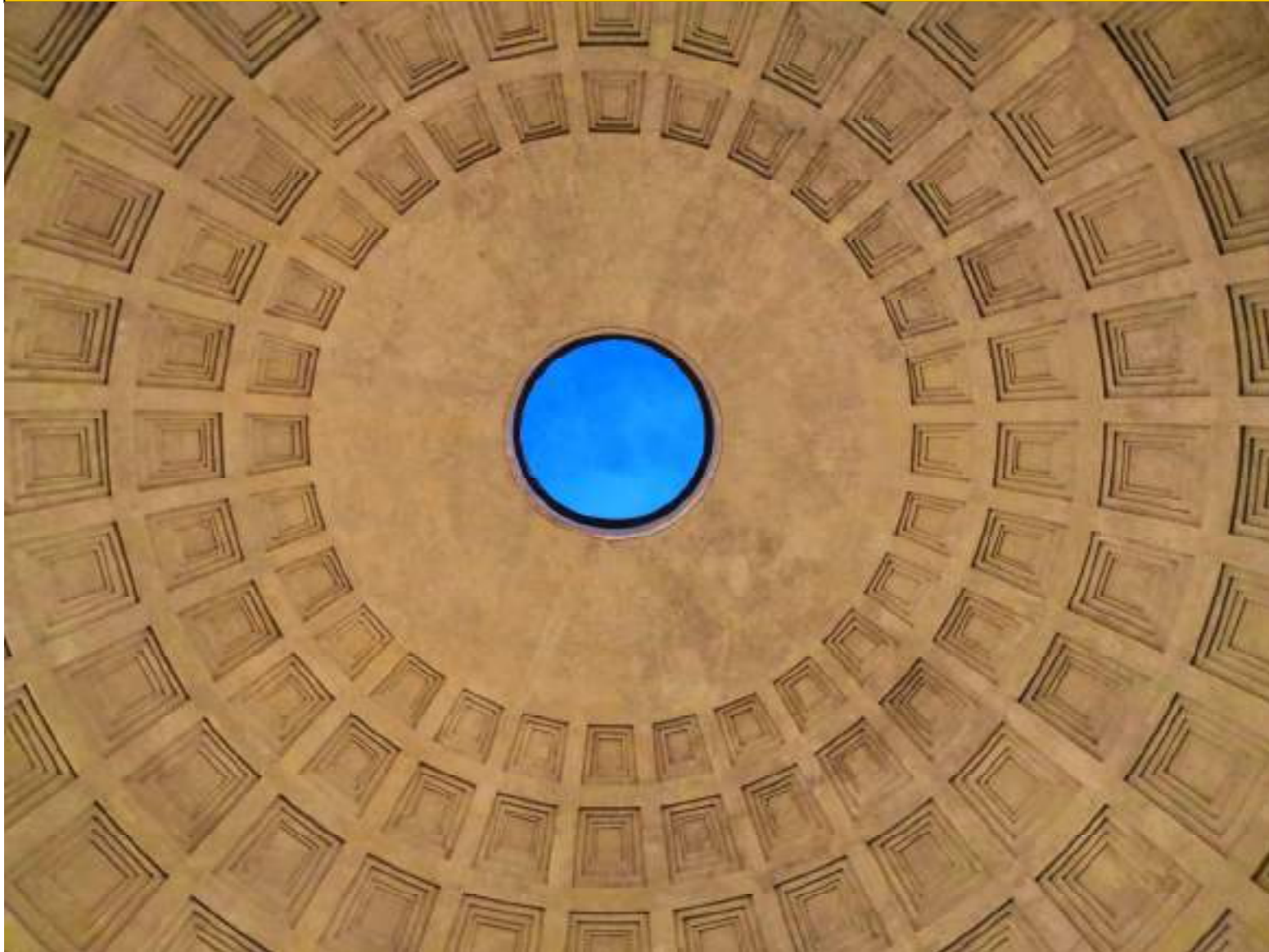
## **1. Norham Castle**

2. Located in north Northumberland immediately adjacent the river Tweed and to the eastern end of Norham Village.
3. It ranks among the finest sights in the border country, high on a grassy mound. Built by the Bishops of Durham and later developed into a formidable border fortress it commanded a strategically important position overlooking a crossing point over the River Tweed. It was one of the most frequently attacked by the Scots -it was besieged at least 13 times, once for nearly a year by Robert Bruce. It was captured by the Scots on several occasions including by James IV just before his defeat and death at the Battle of Flodden (1513).

The recorded origin of the castle site is as a motte and bailey earthwork castle built for Bishop Ranulph Flambard during the reign of Henry I (1100-35) in about 1121. King Henry II first took the castle into Crown hands in 1174, establishing a precedent for taking the castle into Crown hands during periods of national military crisis, first repeated by King John in 1208. Despite its capture after prolonged sieges by Scottish forces in 1327, the castle remained relatively unchanged between the end of the 12th and early 15th centuries, when considerable additions were made, followed by further strengthening of the defences around 1495 (Pearson & Ainsworth 2002, 12).



# Italy



H2

1 of 2

# Italy



H2

2 of 2

# Answers to H2

## 1. The Pantheon

2. Located in central Rome.

3. It is one of the best-preserved of all Ancient Roman buildings, in large part because it has been in continuous use throughout its history and, since the 7th century, the Pantheon has been in use as a church. The site is said to date originally from 27 BC, but burned down in the great fire of 80 AD, was rebuilt and then burned down a gain in 110 AD. The Pantheon as we know it today was built in 120 AD by Emperor Hadrian who was passionate about architecture and designed it together with Apollodorus of Damascus, a famous Greek architect of the time, later executed by order of the Emperor, (because of an argument about the design of the temple)... The most fascinating part of the Pantheon is its giant dome, with its famous hole in the top (The eye of the Pantheon, or oculus). The dome was the largest in the world for 1300 years and until today it remains the largest unsupported dome in the world!

A town. Down at h...

H3



48



# Answers to H3

1. A Roman amphitheatre built during Hadrian's reign, during the 2nd century CE.
2. **It is situated in the main piazza of the old town part of the City of Lecce** in Italy's southern Apulia region, in the HEEL of Italy.
3. Interestingly, it was completely hidden from view and its existence unknown until as recently as 1901 when construction workers uncovered it while digging to build a bank. The theatre is still partially buried, but you can easily make out the horseshoe-shaped arena, which in its time could hold at least 15,000 spectators (some say 25,000). Ancient images on the walls depict the types of shows they would have seen, such as gladiators fighting bulls, lions, bears, or other humans.

## Norway - a doorway detail



J1

# Answers to J1

Early Medieval (Viking) carvings around the portal (doorway) of **Urnes Stave Church, Norway**.

There are only 28 stave churches remaining so archaeological research is vital re decisions as to how best preserve them for future generations

# Scotland



J2



# Answers to J2

## **Oakbank Crannog, Lock Tay, Scotland .**

Palaeobotany was used to recover and identify waterlogged remains of medicinal plants from the bottom of the lock

# France



J3

# Answers to J3

Medieval “ squirrel cage” treadwheel crane ( with 21st Century H & S requirements) **at Guedelon, Treigny, France.**

A 25 year programme of experimental archaeology, building a medieval castle from scratch using medieval building techniques and tools.

# Somewhere in Egypt



K1



# Answers to K1

What is it – Avenue of sphinxes

Where is it – **Luxor, Egypt**

What archaeological significance does it have – it is part of the processional way that once linked the Temple of Karnak with the Temple of Luxor, about 3 km to the south. Dates from around 400BC

## Somewhere in Jordan



K2

# Answers to K2

What is it – a Roman-era colonnaded street

Where is it – **Jerash, in northern Jordan**

What archaeological significance does it have – it is a central part of the ancient city of Jerash, considered to be one of the largest and best-preserved sites of Roman architecture in the world outside Italy

## Somewhere in Peru



K3



# Answers to K3

What is it – part of the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

Where is it – **Peru – about 20km north of Cusco.**

What archaeological significance does it have – this area was occupied by three different civilisations from around 800 BC until 1537, when the Spanish took it over

Not far away



L1

# Answers to L1

## **HEPBURN WOOD'S CIST, Northumberland**

This is a bronze age cist grave with capstone, a short walk from the carpark at Hepburn Woods.

It was probably for the bones of someone important, with perhaps some artifacts too.

About midway along something



L2



# Answers to L2

## **HOUSESTEADS, Northumberland**

Housesteads marks the midpoint of the Roman Wall. It was built around AD 124. The garrison consisted of a double-sized auxiliary infantry cohort. It had no running water supply, instead relying on rainwater collection.

This photo is of the granary. The pillars supported a raised floor to keep the food dry and free from vermin.

Up north....can become quite isolated



L3

# Answers to L3

## **LINDISFARNE SKELETON**

A team from Durham University and Dig Ventures uncovered the skeleton in the plot in front of the Priory.

They found a cemetery associated with the early medieval monastery. They also found some Anglo-saxon coins, a reminder of how monastic sites were a place of trade and exchange.

# A Northumberland 'Walk'



L4



# Answers to L4

## **MAELMIN, Northumberland**

This was the name of a royal township that existed near Milfield in Anglo-saxon times.

The present henge in the photo is a reconstruction. Once there were many henges in the Milfield area, dating from 2,000 B.C.

In the central area of the henge were 3 pits, 2 of which are thought to be graves. The henge was a cultural centre where people prayed, danced, sang and a special few were buried.

What are these rectangular cuts in the bedrock?  
Where are they found?



M1

# Answers to M1

**Rock-cut pits on foreshore northside of Bondicarr Burn Low Hauxley.**  
(Can still be seen).

Several rectangular shapes cut into sandstone on the foreshore and filled with beach cobbles. In 2013 one was excavated to the base of the sandstone layer - approx. 1m - through silty material which then opened out in all directions indicating the removal of coal from seam. All walls of the shaft were vertical and a mason's mark was found on one.

Dated late 19th century - early 20th century.

Time and tide waits for no man – what were volunteers and Uni students trying to save?



M2



# Answers to M2

Work on Cairn. **Bronze Age Cairn between Hauxley Nature Reserve and Bondicarr Burn.** Heavy erosion of the coastline exposed evidence of a Bronze Age Cairn with burial cists.

The cairn and surrounding area showed multi layers of occupation/burial rights from the Beaker Period to the late Bronze Age - 2800 - 1800BC. Unfortunately half of the cairn had been lost to the sea.

Also exposed below the above level was a broad layer of small mixed stones from different locations. In 6200BC the collapse of the Norwegian Trench - the 'Storegga Slide' - sent a huge and violent tsunami into the Atlantic and North Sea. This probably wiped out occupation before the Bronze Age (evidence of Mesolithic occupation found at site). Tsunami not known this far south on NE coast.

Where was this Iron Age 'patio' found?



M3

# Answers to M3

Iron Age 'Patio' (Around 300BC).

'Patio' to the east side of Iron Age Hut. **Between Bondicarr Burn and Hauxley Nature Reserve.**

Removal of dune at the beginning of the 2013 Archaeological Dig Low Hauxley revealed evidence of Iron Age settlement next to the Bronze Age Cairn. Flat stones used for the 'patio' may well have been taken from the cairn. A fragment of Samian pottery (2nd century) was found in a gully showing a Roman connection. Also found between the 'patio' stones was a fragment of pottery from a large jar made in Essex - carbon dated 3rd century AD.

Future information can be found in 'Rescue from the Sea' - Clive Waddington

## A fort on a Roman road



N1



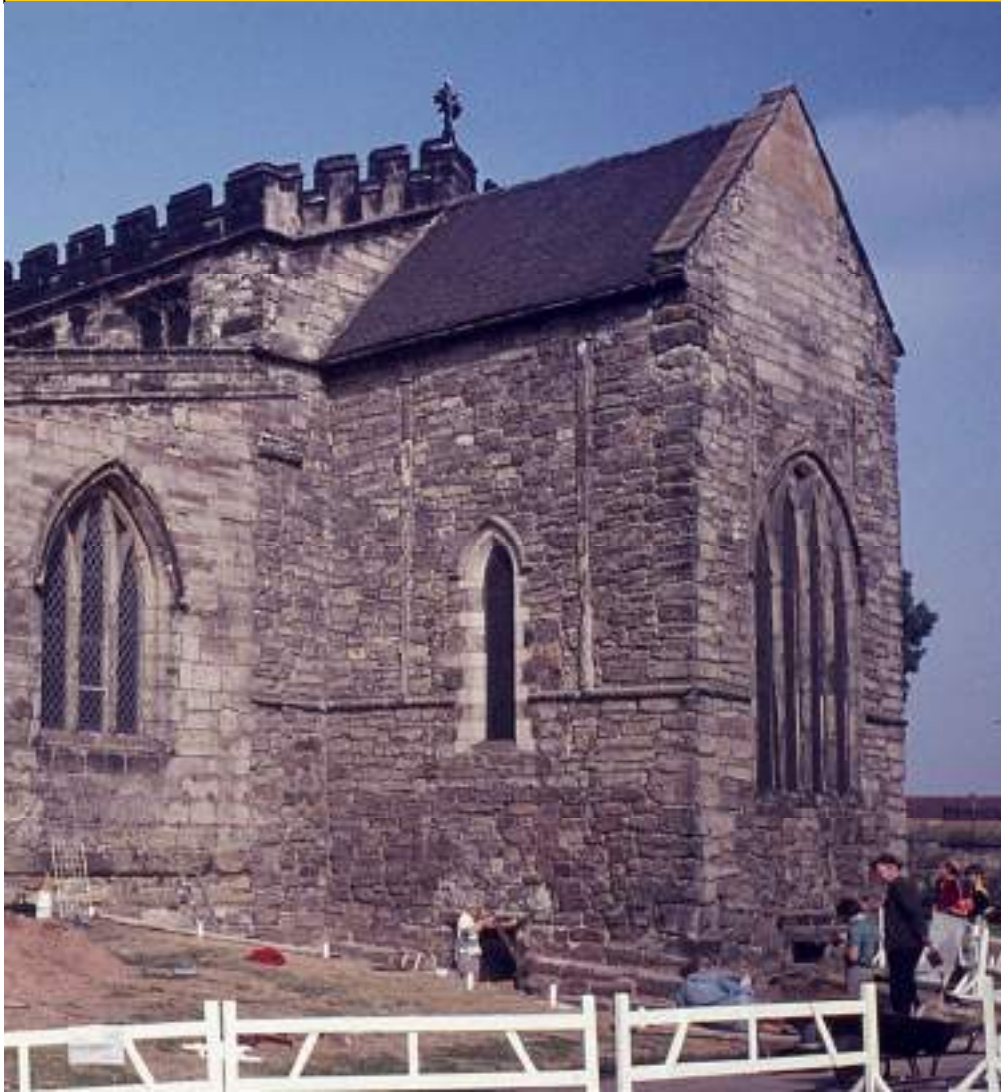
# Answers to N1

This is a Roman Fort on Dere Street known as Binchester or Vinovia.

**Binchester is close to Bishop Auckland and to Dere Street's crossing of the River Wear.**

The fort was occupied from 78 AD until after the Roman left. Some of the stone, and possibly a whole arch, from the fort was used in the construction of the nearby 7th century Anglo-Saxon church at Escomb. The photograph showed excavations taking place in 2015. The fort has never been fully excavated.

## A Saxon church that was attacked by Vikings



N2

# Answers to N2

## **St Wystan's Church, Repton.**

The photograph of the early 1970s showed excavation led by Dr Harold Taylor which supported his opinion that the church as well as the crypt was pre-874.

What is it & What was it worth?

a) a day's wage b) a week's wage c) a month's wage



O1



# Answers to O1

What is it - Denari (roman bronze coin) **found in field near Amble.**

What was it worth - a day's wage.

The Far East. This roof covered up something astonishing. What was it?

P1



# Answers to P1

## **The Terracotta Warriors Museum, Xian, China.**

The photo shown is the roof that covered the warriors, who were placed in deep pits in lines, together with horses, chariots and a variety of weapons.

The pits were discovered by farmers in 1974 drilling a series of wells in search of water and the museum was opened later that year with pit 1, containing over a thousand warriors.

The museum is located on the east side of the mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shihuang, the 1st emperor in Chinese history & the whole site covers 20 hectares. The mausoleum has to be very carefully excavated because it is rumoured that the Emperor ordered the tomb to be surrounded by a river of mercury, which had leached into the soil.

His body was buried there in 210 BC and the excavations will be ongoing for many decades to come.

**END OF SLIDES**

**Xmas Quiz – December 2020**