

‘Exotic Adventures of an Appleby Archaeologist’

Despite the lingering remnants of snow on the ground, the loyal and hardy members of the Appleby Archaeology Group turned out in force for its February meeting in the Market Hall recently.

The Guest Speaker for the evening was local archaeologist Trish Shaw and she took her engrossed audience on an intriguing journey through time, place and culture in her talk ‘Travels of an Archaeologist’.

This was essentially a personally escorted tour through three separate countries and three different archaeological periods from the Neolithic in Romania, the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages in Slovakia and then finally through to Ancient Egypt.

The lecture charted and reflected the various types of archaeological sites which Trish had personally visited and worked on during July and August in the summer of 2017, and the members present seemed more than willing to join her as passengers on the tour.

The first destination on this fascinating journey was Romania. Here Trish had spent a week excavating on a large and rewarding site on the outskirts of the medieval city of Alba Iulia and in temperatures of up to 42 degrees Centigrade. The artefacts recovered however were plentiful and significant, including large quantities of fine and well preserved Neolithic pottery, stone axe heads, bone implements and clay figurines.

On the next stage of her journey, our guide Trish then switched countries, taking us to Šahy, a small town in Slovakia near the border with Hungary. Here she spent a week supervising students on yet another interesting dig. The Chalcolithic and Bronze Age artefacts that were unearthed on this site were less plentiful but nevertheless just as significant.

However the group also discovered some more modern and less welcome finds, including a live hand grenade from the Second World War, which was safely removed from the site by the authorities and dealt with appropriately!

In the final part of her talk Trish concentrated on her recent travels to Egypt, focussing on a two-week trip she took in order to explore some of the unique and interesting temples along a stretch of the River Nile from Aswan to Luxor.

The first temple she escorted us to was the stunning Temple at Philae, which was famously relocated to save it from being submerged and lost forever beneath the waters of Lake Nasser, created when the High dam was built at Aswan. Other highlights included the Avenue of the Sphinx and the Temples of Karnak, Edfu and Kom Ombo. Then swiftly across to the West Bank and the Valley of the Kings, the Tomb of Tutankhamun, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Howard Carter’s House and even the Winter Palace in Luxor where he announced the discovery of Tutankhamun’s Tomb.

It was a truly absorbing evening overall, with an insightful talk which Trish Shaw complemented well with an extensive catalogue of beautiful photographic images of her travels.

Mick Yates

Details of Next Meeting:

Date: 8th March 2018

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Market Hall

Topic: The Headlands to
Headspace Project

Speaker: Louise Martin
(H2H Cultural Heritage Officer)

Non- members always very welcome
(£3 donation)