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**Nottingham**

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# Archaeology@Nottingham

Department of Archaeology Newsletter 2013-14



## Excavating Crete

**Life on the Italian Riviera**  
Copper mining in Western Europe

**Digging the peculiar**  
Nottingham's hidden gems

**Alternative classroom**  
Studying in our Mongolian yurt



# Welcome to the Department of Archaeology



Thank you for your interest in studying in the Department of Archaeology at Nottingham.

Archaeology is the study of material remains of the human past. This is not just the objects people used, but also the bones of people and their animals, seeds, charcoals and other remains. We use these to reconstruct the life of humans in the past, rather like detectives.

The Department of Archaeology is widely recognised as a very friendly place to study. The quality and high reputation of our University and of the staff teaching here, most of whom are leading experts in their fields, means that it is an excellent place to take a degree in archaeology. Here at Nottingham we are passionate about archaeology and I hope that you enjoy reading about some of our work.

## Dr Mark Pearce

Head of the Department of Archaeology

### News

## Loving our yurt

The beginning of term kicked off with a range of activities including artefact handling, bone identification and pottery-making at the department's unique facility, a Mongolian yurt, based on University Park Campus.

After spending some time inside the yurt, learning about archaeological evidence (and experiencing the tent's unique smell!) the students worked together to take it down for winter.

The yurt is just one of a number of facilities in the department. We also house archaeological materials laboratories that are used for research, teaching and practical exercises.

Our laboratories are well equipped for all practical skills that are undertaken by undergraduates and postgraduates as well as housing a library collection of key texts. In addition, The University of Nottingham Museum holds a wide range of collections and archives that we use extensively in our teaching.

In the spring the yurt will be re-erected permanently, this time complete with a log-burning stove. Activities and events will continue with the establishment of an excavation area (so that we can run activities for school children on site) and a flint-knapping day.

You can follow our activities at:

[www.learninginthepast.wordpress.com](http://www.learninginthepast.wordpress.com)

[@nottsuniyurt](https://twitter.com/nottsuniyurt)



Students taking down the yurt.

# Discovering the Bronze Age



Students take part in an excavation in Palaikastro, Crete.

During the summer of 2013, a new excavation project began at the east part of the Minoan (Bronze Age) town in Crete, Greece. Students from Nottingham, and eight other universities from around the world, had the opportunity to participate in the excavation for one month, directed by a team that included Dr Alexandra Livarda.

The site of Palaikastro is located at the east end of Crete, a few hundred metres away from the sea. It is a large Bronze-Age settlement with substantial town blocks and cemeteries in use from the Early Bronze Age through to the latter stages of the Late Bronze Age.

In the 2013 season, students were involved in revealing a new town neighbourhood with evidence for possible industrial activities, along with a variety of artefacts used in the Bronze-Age township that engaged in agricultural and pastoral activities.

As well as advanced training in excavation techniques and bioarchaeological field and laboratory processing, students also learnt from experts in the field, including our own Dr Hector Orengo, a specialist in landscape surveying.

The project also included a series of educational activities for school children and the local community in order to open a dialogue between the archaeologists and the village, linking the past with the present.

Some students were also able to use primary archaeological material from the excavation to study for their dissertations. The excavation will be open for at least the next three years and we are looking forward to welcoming more students onto this exciting project.



Dr Hector Orengo shares his expertise with students.

## News

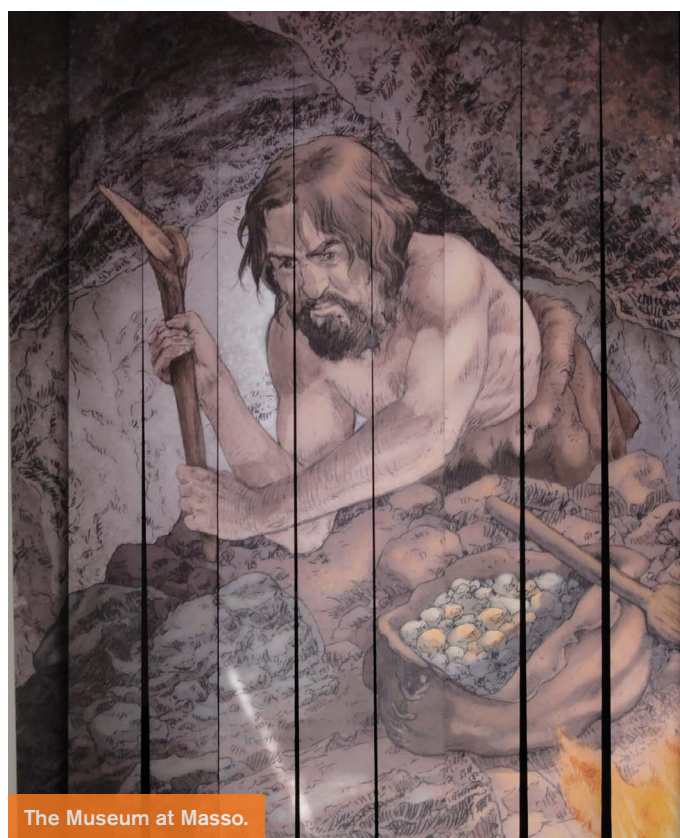
# Mining in the Italian Riviera

A team from The University of Nottingham, in collaboration with the Italian State Archaeology Service, recently excavated copper mines dating back nearly 6,000 years at Monte Loreto, on the Italian Riviera.

Nottingham undergraduates were involved in the project over a number of years, experiencing life in Italy, as well as learning about mining archaeology.

We found that the Monte Loreto copper mine is the oldest copper mine known in western Europe to date, and it has taught us much about copper procurement and use in the fourth and third millennia BC. The mine is now the centrepiece of a new museum in the village of Masso, which opened on Saturday 28 September 2013.

Another prehistoric mine where Nottingham undergraduates have worked, surveying the ancient workings at Libiola, features in a new museum at Sestri Levante, which was inaugurated on 20 April 2013. The two museums are new and some €3.5m was invested, much of that from European Union Regional Development funds. The opening of the museum at Masso was attended by Dr Mark Pearce of the Department of Archaeology, who directed the project.



The Museum at Masso.





Students help local school pupils excavate a test pit.



Lucy Sheeran digs with a mattock.

# “Digging the Peculiar”

**Digging the Peculiar is a long-term archaeological research and training project centred on Southwell, an important historic minster town 14 miles north-east of Nottingham.**

The third season of the department's project ran in June 2013 and achieved some interesting results. In the medieval period Southwell and its surrounding district was a 'peculiar' under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York. Every year our students, led by Dr Chris King (The University of Nottingham) and Dr Richard Jones (University of Leicester), investigate the origins and development of the town and its surroundings.

Working with the local community, we excavate 1m-square test-pits in residents' gardens, as well as conducting surveys, environmental coring and historic buildings recording.

Our students are trained in a whole range of archaeological and survey techniques, from lifting the first turf to excavating, recording and processing the finds at the end of the day. The local community were fascinated to see what came out of their back gardens!

We also excavated nearly 60 test-pits in the nearby village of Norwell where fragments of medieval and Anglo-Saxon pottery indicate that perhaps the focus of settlement has moved over time.

Following each period of the project, we run open days in local schools and give pupils the opportunity to have a go at some real 'archaeology'. Our students create and supervise activities including geophysical surveying, test-pitting and human remains analysis.

In 2014, we will continue our research in Southwell and begin a programme of standing building recording in the town.

## News

## New distance learning course

No matter where you are in the world you are now able to study for our distance learning programme. The Department of Archaeology prides itself in the high level of teaching and has furthered this by designing in MA Mediterranean Archaeology. This is an exciting opportunity to explore topics from Prehistory to Late Antiquity. To find out more about the course:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/mediterranean](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/mediterranean)

### Get involved

[www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/societies/society/Archaeology](http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/societies/society/Archaeology)

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[www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy)