



Cawood Castle Garth Group Newsletter

Issue 2

June 2009

Events

Tues 7 July	Start of Dig (daily 10-4)
Sat 11 July	Finds review
Sun 12 July	End of Dig
Craft festival weekend	Display of finds
Sat 10 Oct	Finds Results and AGM— 2:00 - 4:00pm Cawood School

Photos: Above: Pit 3 dig in progress and Right: Some of the finds from Pit 1. Below Left: a frog we saw when surveying the Garth.



Last year (with scheduled monument consent from English Heritage) we opened three test pits on the Garth to try to date the “New Cut” Moat. Two of the test pits produced Roman finds: a roof tile and small pieces of pottery. We also found some high status mediaeval roof tiles predating the existing Gatehouse and Banqueting Hall amongst other finds. The third test pit close to the Bishopdyke was not completed and will be opened again this year. Here we found mostly Victorian rubbish and a nice flint scraper (not Victorian).

Garth Dig 2009

We shall be investigating one of the earthworks in the centre of the site with four test pits plus completing the unfinished test pit 3 near the Bishopdyke.

If you would like volunteer to dig with us can you please let us know?

Due to the high numbers of volunteers asking to help already, we shall need to make a rota. This year we are running the dig at the weekend as well as during the week, to give everybody a chance to participate.

Finds Expert

If you have any finds from your garden and would like to bring them along to the dig on the **Saturday 11th July**. There will be experts to identify and date your artefacts.



Join us for a workout in the “green gym”

The Garth Group needs to ensure regular maintenance activities are carried out, particularly regarding the pond and grassland. The New Cut also is beginning to get overgrown and needs some attention to maintain the integrity of the earthwork.

Later in the year, in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council Ecology department and their Conservation Volunteers, we shall clean

out some of the undergrowth and reed mace from the north side of New Cut. We will leave the south side (nearest the tarmac path) as it is now.

To improve the quality of the grassland we need a regime of cutting and raking. If this is done regularly the finer grasses will grow and it gives wild flowers a chance to appear.

The whole Garth is too vast to attempt all at once so a small area at a time will be improved.

We are starting with the wildflower meadow and the area behind the houses on Thorpe Lane.

Volunteers

The Conservation Volunteers, who travel from all over Yorkshire, will help with this work.

We would like to invite people from the village to join a team of volunteers of our own who might like to help host the visits and join in with the work ...to get fit whilst helping the community..... like a Green Gym!

Our project has been filmed by Edward Croot — you can see the films online eg. for the 2008 Dig at <http://uk.video.yahoo.com/watch/3716363/10218643>



The Garth Group's Fiona watches as Jon Kenny, Community Archaeologist from Yorkshire Archaeology Trust, starts work on our first test pit in July 2008.

Stop Press! DIG Results!

Join us at Cawood School
on **Saturday 10 October**
from 2:00 to 4:00pm
to see a display of the Dig finds.

Our contact details

Email: cawoodcgg@googlemail.com

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Website: <http://myweb.fiscali.co.uk/cawoodcastlegarth/>

The Cawood Castle Garth Group is now in its sixth year. We aim to continue to investigate the history of the Garth site and chart the development of the village, to advise on the management of the Garth's ecology and produce information guides and site interpretation boards.

We have:

- Used the Heritage Lottery Initiative grant to get expert advice about the best way to manage the site, to conserve its habitat and the on site archaeology.
- Improved access to the site—improved the tarmac paths, underpinned the diagonal path with scalping and built the bridge over the inner moat.
- Published two leaflets—Nature Trail and History Guide.
- Hosted visits by a number of groups and local experts.
- Ran three history day events and several activities with Cawood School groups.
- Confirmed that the Garth site is protected by law - the wildlife now has status as a Site for Nature Conservation (SINC) whilst the site itself is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- Learnt about protecting important species such as the Great Crested Newt, bats, moths and rare grassland plants such as the Star of Bethlehem.
- Featured in several English Heritage publications and events.

A new project — Checking out Cawood wills

Through York Timeline Plus* the Garth Group has made contact with many similar groups and is looking at new ideas. We are researching information sources on Cawood and have found details of over 300 wills dating from the 17th to 19th centuries. We aim to collate the information from these to build a picture of life in Cawood. We have been offered help from an expert who can help us to interpret the wills. Please let us know if you would be interested in helping us with these new investigations.

* For more information on York Timeline please see <http://yorkcommunityarchaeology.pbworks.com/>



Local Heritage *initiative*


ENGLISH HERITAGE

 Heritage Lottery Fund

 Nationwide

 The Countryside Agency