

NEW EXHIBITION SPACE IN THE AVEBURY WORLD HERITAGE SITE

David Dawson, the Director of the Wiltshire Museum, was the speaker at the opening event of Avebury's new community exhibition space on 14 October. Over 40 members of the Avebury Society and local residents were present. The talk was the Society's annual lecture.

David spoke about a recent trip to Japan with colleagues from Historic England and the WHS Coordination Unit. The party visited sites in northern Honshu and southern Hokkaido; these were inscribed in 2021 as a World Heritage Site. David's talk focused on the stone circles of the Jomon era (10,500-300 BCE). One highlight was a description of the Manza and Nonakado sites at Oyu with their central sundial feature set amidst concentric stone rings. Another was a series of photos of the so-called flame pots identified with the Jomon era. He spoke wistfully of a £30 million public investment in one museum. Also striking in the way Japan presents its prehistory was the strong emphasis on educating children and the younger generation. David's talk served as an attractive appetiser for the lavish menu provided by the current exhibition at Stonehenge.

The community exhibition space has been set up in the chapel in Green Street owned by the National Trust and closed since 2020. Avebury Parish Council has secured a three year lease from the Trust. The council's 'A Living Landscape' exhibition showcases materials from the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Wiltshire Museum, CPRE, Professor Josh Pollard's exciting local excavations at West Kennett and nearby, and other organisations. The chapel aims to be open at weekends in October, from Easter next year, and on other occasions when volunteers are available. Entrance is free. Further information is available from clerkap@btinternet.com

281 words