



Update to Avebury Parish Council – 2 October 2017

Avebury URC Chapel

Work will shortly begin to renovate the chapel on Green Street and plans have been drawn up to assist in the programme of work. We are still developing our ideas with lots of feedback that we've received from the community. We hope to start welcoming visitors and locals from Spring next year, subject of course to the extent of building works required.

Second Hand Bookshop

You might have noticed some activity going on in the old stables building next to our car park on the High Street. This building, which dates back to the early 19th century, once provided stabling for ten horses, and will soon have a new lease of life as our second-hand bookshop. This is an initiative championed by our volunteers at Avebury, who currently run a second-hand book sale twice a year in our Education Centre. Soon all these books, so generously donated by our supporters, won't have to be stored for the majority of the year, but can be permanently displayed and sold.

The income generated from this venture will help us in our conservation work. The bookshop will open early next year. If you would be interested in helping, or if you have got any books to donate please contact

eva.stuetzenberger@nationaltrust.org.uk

Avebury Excavation

You will no doubt be aware that excavations took place at the foot of Avebury Down in August. Finds are now being analysed and assessed.

Four Early Bronze Age arrowheads have already been identified, made at about the same time as round barrows were being constructed. We've also found some Early, Middle and perhaps Late Neolithic pottery (the same time as Windmill Hill, the West Kennet occupation site and Avebury Henge respectively were in use), which covers nearly 2000 years of activity on the site.

Additionally, the team also uncovered the partial remains of an aurochs (an extinct breed of giant cattle) from a Neolithic pit. There were six pits in total, which was a good number for the size of the trenches, and if you imagine this as a small sample of the landscape of Avebury Down, then who knows how many dozens more are concealed under our feet ...

Many thanks to those who attended the village tour led by some of the Project Directors. We hope you found it as interesting as we do! More details will be released in due course, but you can read the daily blogs on our “FragmeNTs” website. Find it by typing ‘Fragments Avebury’ into the internet.

National Trust Review of Car Parks

As part of a national review of parking provision at Trust sites, we’re looking at options in our car park off the High Street. The current arrangements have been in place for many years, so a review is timely. Feedback we receive on a regular basis is that there is currently insufficient parking provision for disabled visitors. We’re committed to making Avebury as accessible as possible for all, so with this in mind we’ll be increasing the number of disabled parking bays. Before deciding on further changes, we would welcome any thoughts or comments you may have on parking arrangements in the High Street car park. Please forward any feedback to avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk by the 31st Oct.

Autumn Events

Following September’s focus on holding on to the warm summer months and celebrating harvest, October is the time of the year that looks towards the darker months. We’ll be embracing this with a spooky trail and family crafts in the Farmyard.

Please see our website for more details on our autumn programming activities. You are warmly invited to drop in and take part in any of them. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Christmas Decorations, an invitation

Christmas at Avebury Manor is a magical time of the year; each room downstairs is decorated to show Christmas through the ages while upstairs is a cosy winter’s night and Christmas spectacle. The smells of natural greenery, plum pudding and festive spices waft through the air and visitors are invited to relax in one of the chairs by the fires. On Wed 22 Nov at 3pm we’d like to invite you to preview the Manor decorated for Christmas where you can chat to the room guides and enjoy a delicious mince pie as you soak up the festive atmosphere. If you would like to attend then please RSVP to hazel.barry-scott@nationaltrust.org.uk