

Annual Christmas Lecture and Reception
In the footsteps of the Ancestors – excursions
into the Gorham's Cave complex World Heritage Site



Thursday 15 December 2016

06.30—08.30pm

The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street,

London EC1M 6EL

Speaker: Professor Clive Finlayson MBE FLS

A look into Gibraltar's Neanderthal Caves

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The dispersal of modern humans across the globe in the Late Pleistocene is an unfolding story. As people reached new regions of the planet they discovered that they had not been alone. Conventional wisdom tells us that the competitively superior modern humans were responsible for the demise of all who they came across in their relentless path towards global colonisation. The story of humanity is much more complex than this and it is becoming increasingly clear that the evidence does not support this simple model. New technologies, now capable of piecing together the entire Neanderthal genome, are revolutionising the way in which we understand the story.

New technologies are not enough on their own - they often rely on fossils and artefacts which largely come from museum collections from caves excavated over a century ago. Fortunately, there are also sites which have survived the attention of over-eager Victorian archaeologists and their contemporaries and which have the potential, in combination with new technologies, of revealing the secrets of the Ancestors. These sites, which include the Gorham's Cave complex, newly inscribed as a World Heritage Site, constitute the most universal heritage of all, that of all humans, past, present and future. It is our responsibility to protect these key sites and to welcome them, as equal partners, into the community of castles, churches and historic towns.



About the Speaker

We are pleased to welcome Clive Finlayson as our speaker. Clive is Director of the Gibraltar Museum and of the recently-inscribed Gorham's Cave Complex UNESCO World Heritage Site. He has a DPhil from the University of Oxford (1980) and has spent the last twenty six years studying the Neanderthals and their way of life, a research project which highlighted the attributes that gave the Gorham's Cave Complex outstanding universal value. His research has taken him to many parts of the world and he has an intimate knowledge of the Palaeolithic and the sites that tell the human story. He has published a large number of scientific papers and several books with Oxford and Cambridge University Presses among others. Clive also has a specific interest in World Heritage and has worked with the World Heritage Centre in Paris on ways of making the World Heritage List more representative and has

undertaken missions on its behalf. He was appointed Director of the Institute of Life and Earth Sciences at the University of Gibraltar in 2015 and Adjunct Professor at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto, Canada, in 2016. Clive was elected into the Academia Europaea in 2010 and was awarded the MBE in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours in 2003.

Booking Form

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Ticket Price*:

ICOMOS-UK members: £16.00

Non-members: £19.00

Students: £11.00

*includes glass of wine or soft drink and festive refreshments

Pay online via PayPal at www.icomos-uk.org/payment

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