

May's Saturday Workshop: Time Meacham – *Classics in a Nutshell*
Report by Annie Clouston

There was a splendid turnout for this fascinating whistle-stop tour around ancient Greece, Rome and a bit of Egypt on the side. Who knew that bikinis were worn in 1st century Rome, and that the Minoans (3000BC) had flushing toilets? (What did the ancients ever do for us?) Tim opened with a quiz of ten questions that was tough. The most correctly answered question was probably: "Who was the Macedonian king who took over most of Greece, Asia and Africa in the 3rd century BC?" The answer is Alexander the Great, whose tomb was discovered just 15 years ago in Thessalonica.

Tim took us on a journey through these marvellous civilisations in 20 iconic pictures, flavouring his talk with his personal experiences of the archaeological sites he has visited, along the way giving explanations of the origins of some key terms in our political lexicography– democracy, tyranny - and law – draconian after Drago who developed the first code of law as a foundation for civil society in 621BC.

This was a brilliantly put together presentation that only skimmed the surface of Tim's deep knowledge of the Classics and in particular, Greek Theatre. It left us wanting more and the workshop group will be pestering Tim for a future session.

Future Workshops:

Saturday 5 July: Trip to Tynemouth

Saturday 27 September, 10-12am: Groups Showcase, Guide HQ, Birch Road, Barnard Castle.
An event to enable members to see the range of groups on offer and chat to fellow members about their experiences of the groups to which they belong.