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NEWS <<

E YORKS: Space rock returns to site of crash landing after 215 years

Look out! Meteorite is heading our way

IN SHORT

Part of a meteorite, which weighed 56lb, is returning home to Wold Newton, near Driffield, thanks to a kind donation from a US collector.

BY **DANNY LONGHORN**

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ITS latest journey will not end with a violent crash landing as happened more than 200 years ago.

Yet for those behind the meteorite's return to East Yorkshire, the space rock's arrival is no less significant.

Part of the second biggest meteorite to hit England is this week heading back to Wold Cottage, in Wold Newton, near Driffield - where it landed in 1795.

A small piece of the 56lb meteorite has been donated to current Wold Cottage owners Katrina and Derek Gray, for free, from American collector David Gheesling.

The one-and-a-half gram section will be returning to East Yorkshire this Friday.

Prior to this, the only sign of the meteorite on the site was an obelisk, a stone pillar, which was erected by the owner at the time of its impact, Edward Topham, in 1799.

Wold Cottage is now operated by Mr and Mrs Gray as a bed and breakfast.

The Grays' hunt for a piece of the meteorite started when Martin Goff, a meteorite collector who was staying at the venue, said he had seen bits of the meteorite for sale.

Mrs Gray said: "Martin stayed here last year. He said there was a piece of the meteorite for sale in Scotland, but in the end we were too late and it was bought by someone else.

"Martin e-mailed David Gheesling in America, who had a bit of the meteorite, asking him to let us know if he decided to sell it.

"In the end, he said he would send it to us for free.

"It's nice to have it coming back home. It will be displayed for everyone to see and will be a talking point for people over breakfast.

"I'd like to thank Martin and David for getting us the piece."

It is believed the meteorite was kept



RETURN VISIT: Derek and Katrina Gray are looking forward to receiving a piece of the meteorite that landed in Wold Newton in 1795.

by Mr Topham in the East Riding for a few months after it had landed, before going to London, where he used to charge people to see it.

It is believed to have been shown in a few different exhibitions, before finding its way into the Natural History Museum, though Mr Gray was unsure of the date.

He also believes Mr Topham chipped a few bits off the meteorite to give to friends.

The section that is returning to Wold Cottage is an end part slice of the meteorite and features fusion crust from the meteoroid's violent passage through the atmosphere.

Mr Gheesling, 42, from Atlanta in the US, said he purchased the piece of

meteorite from an Anne Black, a meteorite dealer, several years ago.

He said: "When Martin told me Wold Cottage did not have a piece of this historic meteorite and that he wanted to donate one to them, I told him I'd give it to them right away.

"Wold Cottage is an historic landmark in the history of meteorites, as this witnessed meteorite was one in a short series that led to scientists finally accepting that rocks do indeed fall from space.

"It makes far more sense to me that this specimen be on permanent display there than here in my private collection."

Links

David Gheesling's posting site
www.fallingrocks.com
Wold Cottage
www.woldcottage.com

Sudden impact

THE 56lb meteorite landed two fields away from the Wold Cottage on December 13, 1795.

At the time it was the home of magistrate Sir Edward Topham.

The sensation of it hitting the ground was strongest of all for Mr Topham's shepherd, who was within 150 yards of the spot.

And one of the farmhands, who was also near the point of impact, was struck very forcibly by mud and earth as the meteorite plunged into the ground.

It cut through a foot of soil and seven inches of chalky rock, creating a hole more than a yard in diameter.

The largest meteorite to hit England was in Barwell, Leicestershire on Christmas Eve, 1965, and is estimated to have been the size of a Christmas turkey.

With all the pieces put together, the total weight is estimated to have been more than 99kg.

IN BRIEF

Aircraft put on display after war-zone duty

EAST RIDING: A surveillance aircraft, which has operated in war zones including Iraq and Afghanistan, is the latest exhibit at one of the region's museums.

The Nimrod MR2 made its last flight into the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington, near Pocklington, where it will be put on display.

Much of the development work for the aircraft was done at BAE Systems in Brough.

Did you see robbery?

EAST HULL: Police are appealing for witnesses following a robbery at William Hill Bookmakers in Chamberlain Road.

A man threatened members of staff before taking a quantity of money.

The offender was wearing a black balaclava over his face, black gloves and a dark, long-sleeved top and dark jeans.

The crime happened at about 7.45pm on Friday, March 12. Anyone with information is being asked to call police on 0845 6060222.

Family lose home in fire

NORTH HULL: A family of six watched as their home was gutted by fire.

As first reported on the Mail's website, 15

Here for 125 years

On Thursday, May 12, 1910, the Mail, covered a golfing victory for the Newland Ladies, reporting:

Played on the Newington Links on Wednesday, Newland won by five matches to two.

MAIL News & Media

1885 - 2010

firefighters fought the blaze, at a three-storey building in Keel Road at 7pm on Monday.

The house where the fire started belonged to a couple and their four children, who escaped injury.

An investigation is ongoing, but the fire is believed to have been accidental.

Top award for star chef

BEVERLEY: The East Riding's only Michelin-starred chef has scooped another top accolade.

James Mackenzie, of The Pipe & Glass Inn, in South Dalton, near Beverley, triumphed at the Northern Hospitality Awards on Monday night, winning the Best Chef category.

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DONATION: American Dave Gheesling, who is sending a piece of the meteorite to the Grays.

