

BATS, BEARS, BONES AND STONES

300,000 YEARS OF AZOKH CAVE IN KARABAKH

Saturday, 18 February 2012, 5 to 8 pm
N Gulbenkian Hall, Iverna Gardens, W8 6TP (Tube: High Street Kensington)
Admission: £7 (£5 for Friends of Armenian Institute)

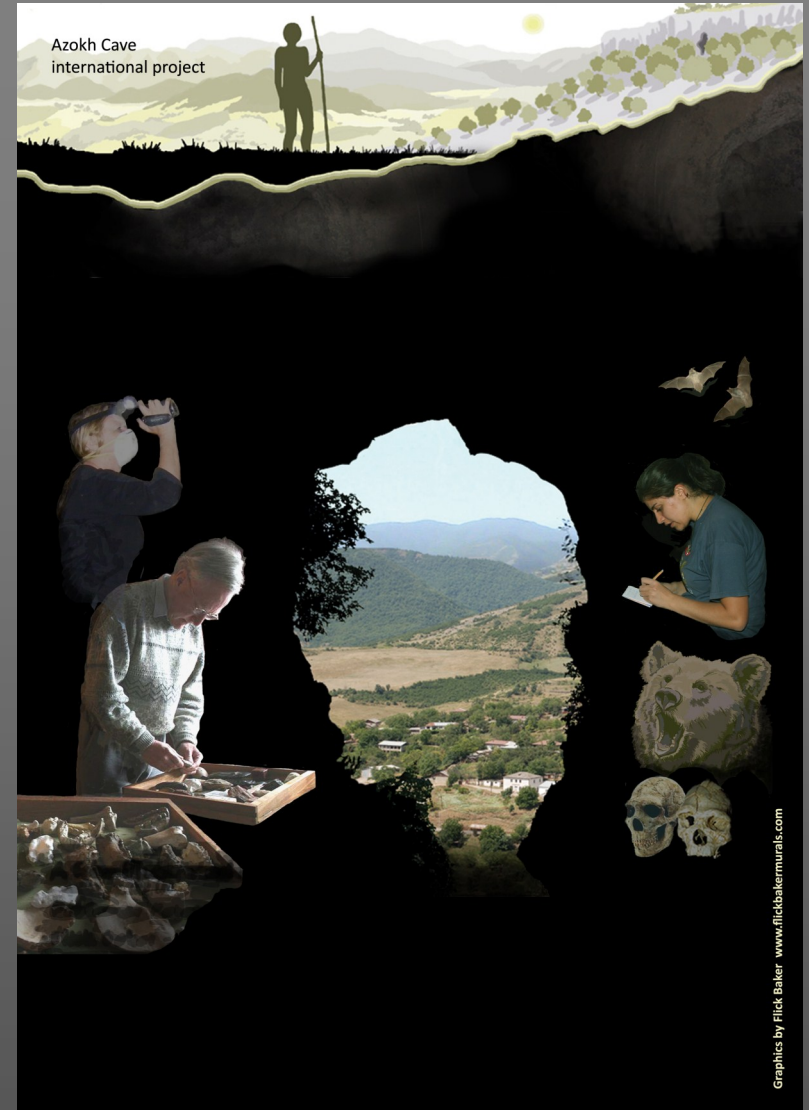
Join us for talks, films and canapé reception celebrating 10 years of archaeological investigation and cultural exchange in Karabakh

For 10 years an international team, including specialists from Armenia and Karabakh, has conducted archaeological excavations at Azokh Cave. The project trains local students and specialists to strengthen scientific capacity in Karabakh and provides employment for people in the area. The project's importance was recognised by the Government of Karabakh through the award of Prime Minister's Gold Medals in 2011, marking the 10th season of work.

Programme

- **Introduction and Update** by Dr Tania King (Blandford Museum & Institute of Man, Yerevan), Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews (Blandford Museum), Dr Levon Yepiskoposyan (National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan)
- **Palaeontology and Archaeology of Azokh Cave** by Professor Peter Andrews (The Natural History Museum & Blandford Museum),
- **Six short films** by Flick Baker (Flick Baker Murals & Illustration) "Idylls in Azokh and Nagorno Karabakh" documenting fieldwork at the cave, daily life in the village and the journey between Azokh and Yerevan.

Azokh Cave (south eastern Karabakh) is an internationally famous site for the understanding of human origins (Neanderthals and their direct ancestors). The site lies on an important migratory route through which early humans travelled from Africa into Europe and Asia. It contains sediments that accumulated over 300,000 years providing a record of plant, animal and human life. Many of the animals (wolves and bears) and plants are still present in the area today.



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