



Mums will be glad to know that Neanderthals set a good example and ate their veg while Lucy swung well through the trees much to the disappointment of Dawkins and Darwin who can also catch up on the latest news on how to get a good date - C14 date that is! Plus don't miss our new best seller DVD 'Time's Up Darwin' - now available in Australia and UK – get yours [CLICK](#). Coming soon to USA, NZ and CANADA. Don't miss some new flood fossil pics from Scotland. Meanwhile enjoy Evidence News number 29/12 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

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ENews is available in 2 FORMATS – for EMAIL scroll down – for PDF see below index.

## **INDEX**

- 1. NEW FLOOD FOSSIL RESEARCH**
- 2. NEW QUESTION**
- 3. NEANDERTHALS ATE THEIR VEG WITH HERBS**
- 4. LUCY A REAL SWINGER**
- 5. FROM THE ARCHIVES**
- 6. DONATIONS**

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**1. NEW FLOOD FOSSIL RESEARCH** see our latest finds in [Scotland](#).

**2. NEW QUESTION:** "CARBON 14 dating proves things are too old for Genesis to be reliable? What is your argument against it?" [ANSWER](#) by John Mackay and Diane Eager.

**3. NEANDERTHALS ATE THEIR VEG WITH HERBS**, according to reports in ScienceDaily 17 July 2012 and Nature News 18 July 2012 and *Naturwissenschaften*, 2012; DOI: 10.1007/s00114-012-0942-0. An international group of scientists has studied microscopic fragments and the chemical composition of plaque on Neanderthal teeth found in the El Sidrón Cave in northern Spain. This cave contained the bones of 13 Neanderthal individuals and researchers were able to obtain teeth from five individuals to study. They found starch granules, indicating Neanderthals ate cooked starchy vegetables, as well as chemicals indicating they ate nuts, grasses and green vegetables. Also found were traces of wood smoke, providing further evidence of cooking. Of particular interest were chemicals found in bitter herbs

## Evidence News 29/12 – 14th November 2012

such as yarrow and camomile, which have no real nutritional value, suggesting they used these as medicinal herbs.

Researchers summarised their findings: “Our results provide the first molecular evidence for inhalation of wood-fire smoke and bitumen or oil shale and ingestion of a range of cooked plant foods. We also offer the first evidence for the use of medicinal plants by a Neanderthal individual. The varied use of plants that we have identified suggests that the Neanderthal occupants of El Sidrón had a sophisticated knowledge of their natural surroundings which included the ability to select and use certain plants”. Antonio Rosas, of the Museum of Natural History in Madrid, one of the researchers, commented: “El Sidrón has allowed us to banish many of the preconceptions we had of Neanderthals. Thanks to previous studies, we know that they looked after the sick, buried their dead and decorated their bodies. Now another dimension has been added relating to their diet and self-medication”.

Links: [Nature News](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Rosas is correct – all detailed studies of Neanderthal bones, and the items found associated with them, fit into the human range and there remains no reason for classifying them as anything other than human. Neanderthals also had a larger average brain size than current humans, so there is no reason to think they were any less intelligent than modern man. It is no surprise to us that Neanderthal abilities are being regularly ‘upgraded’ since it is now obvious they also had “a sophisticated knowledge of their natural surroundings which included the ability to select and use certain plants”. From the publication of our first Evidence News many years ago, we have been encouraging readers to note well that the data actually does fit the Biblical world view where man was created perfect and a vegetarian, who after Noah’s flood and Babel, with the onset of ice and snow, had to survive an increasingly harsh environment and became omnivorous with God’s permission (Gen 8:22-9:6), and has ended as modern Homo sapiens who, surprise, surprise have a smaller ‘thinker’ than either Neanderthals or Cro magnons. (See our slide show “Brain Drain” [here](#).) The Biblical view of the real “descent of man” from created perfection works far better than the evolutionist faith position that cave-men were the product of upward evolution from ape-like creatures to cave dwellers to modern man. We are sure this Biblical accuracy is one reason the Bible also includes challenging statements such as “Prove all things and only keep the things that are true!” (1 Thessalonians 5:21) (Ref. anthropology, diet, medicine)

**4. LUCY A REAL SWINGER** reported ScienceDaily 25 October 2012 and *Science*, 2012; 338 (6106): 514 DOI: 10.1126/science.1227123. David Green of Midwestern University and Zeresenay Alemseged, Curator of Anthropology at the California Academy of Sciences, have made a detailed study of shoulder blades from a juvenile skeleton of *Australopithecus afarensis* found in Dikika, Ethiopia. The most famous member of this species is “Lucy”. The scientists compared the shoulder blades with those of humans and a number of different ape species, including chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans. The key features studied were the orientation of the socket in the ball and socket joint (the glenoid fossa) and a ridge on the back of the bone named the spine of the scapula. In humans the socket faces almost straight to the side, and the spine is almost horizontal. In apes the fossa faces upwards and the spine slopes sharply upwards. These features in apes help orientate the arm upwards for tree climbing. The *A. afarensis* shoulder blades with their upward facing glenoid fossae and spines strongly resembled ape bones. David Green commented: “The question as to whether *Australopithecus afarensis* was strictly bipedal or if they also climbed trees has been intensely debated for more than thirty years. These remarkable fossils provide strong evidence that these individuals were still climbing at this stage in human evolution”.

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. This finding adds to evidence that Lucy and other Australopithecines were simply tree climbing apes, just like chimps and orangutans. Australopithecines also had wrist bones which indicate they were knuckle walkers when they were on the ground like living chimps and gorillas. The claim that

## Evidence News 29/12 – 14th November 2012

they walked upright with a bipedal (two legged) gait like humans was originally based on a fossil knee that was not found with the original Lucy specimen, an ape-like hip reconstructed by Owen Lovejoy to look human, an isolated foot bone identical to a human foot bone but not found with any other bones, and the Laetoli footprints found in a totally different country from where the Lucy bones were found. Whenever Australopithecines are mentioned in the media they are commonly described as human ancestors. Since the only real evidence we have about them is their bones, the case is now strong enough to state they were nothing more than large tree swinging apes that are now extinct. (Ref. primates, locomotion, brachiation, anthropology)

See out report on the foot bone [here](#), and the Laetoli footprints [here](#).

Read the transcript of Owen Lovejoy describing his “reconstruction” of the Lucy pelvis [here](#).

**5. FROM THE ARCHIVES:** Each week we publish links to previous items related to this issue’s topics: [Neanderthals](#), [Australopithecines](#), [Radioactive dating](#).

Remember also, all our news items and quotes are archived as individual items in the Fact File on our Evidence website [here](#). Make the most of this useful resource.

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