

ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Ken and Jackie Parker, Michelle Harrison, Paul Hancock, Colin Parr, Richard Coates, Graham Myers, Rod Mackey taking a break at the Newbold site, during the Heritage at Risk Survey.

Photo: N. Reilly

*Local News ~ LEADER Heritage at Risk Project ~ Continuity Cemeteries ~ AGM Notice Accounts ~
Roman Pottery Kilns ~ Visibility on Clay ~ New Members ~ Events & ERAS Diary*

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ERAS LOCAL NEWS . .

Calling all ex-committee members!

Our secretary, Rose is sorting through the ERAS paper archive, prior to depositing it with the ERYC Treasure House, in Beverley for safekeeping and to enable public access. We'd like to fill in some of the gaps in the record before we do this. If you are a former secretary or treasurer and have minutes or accounts records, lurking in your loft, which really belong in the archive please let us know and we can collect them, no questions asked.

Over the past 50 years we have also amassed printed lecture programmes, menus from elaborate themed dinners, photos and signing in lists from excavations, press cuttings, itineraries, members' correspondence, complaints and praises, newsletters, committee and AGM minutes and accounts. As we have no HQ we think the Treasure House is probably the best place for all this to be kept.

Ferriby Bronze Age boats – Egyptian interest

An international team in Egypt is rebuilding a stitched plank ship of the 2nd/3rd millennium BC found, in over 1000 pieces, in a sealed chamber next to the Cheops pyramid. A replica for international display is being built. John Davis tells me that Mr Afifi Rohim Afifi, Chief Inspector of Pyramids and General Manager of the Solar Boat Project at Giza, recently visited the half size replica of the Bronze Age stitched plank boat from North Ferriby and also saw the full size outline created near the riverbank. He gave a talk at North Ferriby Village Hall about the Solar Boat project being undertaken at Khufu Boat Museum, Giza. For more details of the Egyptian project, see

<http://www.facebook.com/TheMaritimeHistoryofAncientEgypt>

Belle Vue Pottery

The family of the late Derek Brooks consulted ERAS about some mounted pottery sherds from the excavation of the Belle Vue Pottery in High Street in the 1960/70s. Belle Vue pottery is not usually found on local sites as it was mainly made for export. The sherd display is to be passed to Hull and East Riding Museum, to be available for researchers.

Opportunity to buy books

Some of the books given to ERAS by Derek's family, though not classed as rare, are ones seldom seen for sale. A list of the more interesting titles is given on page 9. Some will go to the University library and the rest will be available for sale to members at ERAS lectures. If you are interested, before then, contact Angela Fawcett on angela@dollydimple.karoo.co.uk

Your Newsletter by email?

If you would prefer, to have your newsletter by email **only**, please send me an email, if you have not already done so. However, we will continue with the traditional newsletter if that is what you want.

St Faith's, Leven



Photo: John Tibbles

John Tibbles has been working with a local history group at Leven, attempting to expose the foundations of a church, outside the village. St Faith's is known to have been demolished in the 19th century. See overleaf.

Collect your Volume 13

Members receive the newest ERAS publication for free, and can buy earlier ones at a reduced price. Please pick up your Volume 13 from a lecture meeting as they cost over £5 to post. After the end of the lecture season, in April, we will be posting out those not collected.

Field Studies

Field Studies is going strong, with approx 12 members at meetings. Under the guidance of Graham Myers and Richard Coates, with 'distance learning' support from Ian, the pottery from the Arram dig is slowly being catalogued. Graham is thinking of holding a whole day pottery meeting at Wil and Fiona's farm at Arram, as soon as the weather improves. The usual meetings are on the first Weds of each month at 7.30pm at St. Nicholas Community Centre, Holme Church Lane, Beverley. You can just turn up or contact Graham Myers on 07815 088573.



Photo: N.Reily

‘LEADER’ SURVEY

of Scheduled Ancient Monuments



Ken Parker, Val Reily, Michelle Harrison, Richard Coates, Paul Hancock, Colin Parr, Graham Myers and Rod Mackey at the Newbald site.

Photo: N. Reily

The five sites chosen by ERAS for our LEADER funded survey, assessing the survival of Scheduled Ancient Monuments under cultivation and on the At Risk Register, have all been completed on time and supervisor Richard Coates is currently writing up the report. Graham Myers is producing a topographical plan from the levels taken. The deadlines imposed, by LEADER for each stage of the project, as a condition of receiving the grant, have been tight and for voluntary organizers doing the work in their ‘spare time’ this has been quite a challenge. However, the positive aspect of this approach is that it ensures each stage is developed on time and that results are collated, written up and presented while they are still useful and relevant. ERAS also benefits from having been able to purchase new surveying equipment, a laptop and display boards etc.

Survey results have been most interesting and have shown an alarming rate of loss of archaeological evidence. We have also shown, in one case, that the monument was not exactly where it was marked on OS maps as being! A full report, written up by Richard Coates, will be produced in the September newsletter. Talks, as required by our grant agreement, have been given to community groups by Richard Coates and by Rod Mackey and more are in the pipeline.

Editor



LEADER
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways



The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



St Faith's Church, Leven.

Another project in the East Riding, set up with funding from LEADER, was for a short excavation to expose the foundations of the former St Faith's church, Leven, which was some way out of the village. The footprint of the church was to be laid out with railway sleepers, on the present ground level, together with a notice board, for visitors to see. Initially ERAS undertook a geophysical survey to help locate the church, but in the end, good old spade-work had to prevail.

Approximately 15 people from the area, including many from the Leven Local History Society, turned out in deplorable weather over two weekends to help excavate. Originally one metre trenches were proposed, but it proved impossible to interpret what was exposed. Therefore these trenches were joined to form linear trenches which initially created more questions than answers. We knew the dimensions of the nave and the chancel from Chantrell's (the architect) documentation when the church was demolished, however, tying in these dimensions with what was found proved difficult. For example the northern wall was not found where it was 'supposed' to be.

Floors of brick and tile were exposed beneath a layer of demolition rubble which contained plain glazed floor tiles, early medieval brick, early roof tile (both manufactured in Beverley), 14th-15th century pottery, window tracery, a long cross penny, lead window camb, coloured window glass and a jet bead. Interestingly enough a mid 19th century clay pipe was recovered from this layer, probably from the demolition in 1844.

A point to speculate would be why three burials were exposed at a depth of about 30cm below the present ground level instead of six feet! The post-excavation is now underway with the help of Sophie Tibbles and Richard Coates, both ERAS members, to enable a booklet to be produced with the help of Tim Ollett's Cad-work on what was found and its significance.

*John Tibbles, East Riding Archaeology
(Project Co-ordinator)*

Lecture Summary

A Study of Continuity Cemeteries in North-East England

Malin Holst – January 2013

As an osteologist, Malin gets an overview of many sites and it was good to see this wider approach. The lecture was divided into two parts, initially focusing on skeletons analysed from five multi-period cemeteries in Yorkshire and secondly, looking at 18th/19th c burials from Rotherham. Minster. I have had to focus on the first half of the talk only, and will write up the Rotherham Minster part in the next newsletter. Malin was kind enough to send me her excellent lecture notes which I have edited down to fit the space, whilst hopefully maintaining the sense. Editor

Multi-period cemeteries are common, but are often not identified as such, due to a lack of C14 dating. During excavation, the dates assigned to burials are often based on either artefactual evidence or style of burial. Burials are often assumed to be contemporary with no apparent need for dating. However, dating has demonstrated that many cemeteries do cover more than one period. To interpret a site fully, we need to provide demographic profiles and to map pathological changes over time. Thus, comprehensive radiocarbon dating of skeletons is essential on these pre-historic sites. Only this will identify whether burials are contemporary or not.

East Yorkshire is well-known for the strong association between prehistoric earthworks and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. Bronze Age barrows constitute the most common monument re-used for Anglo-Saxon burials. This presentation focuses on five cemeteries :

Nosterfield Quarry, N. Yorks, excavated by Mike Griffiths & Associates, Ferrybridge Henge, W. Yorks, Wattle Syke, W. Yorks and Easington, E. Yorks, all excavated by Archaeological Services WYAS and lastly, Melton, East Yorks, excavated by On-Site Archaeology.

Wattle Syke, Wetherby, W. Yorks, was excavated in 2004 and 2007-8 in advance of upgrading the A1. Wattle Syke is a Romano-British settlement, with an Iron Age square barrow, enclosures, round houses, later Roman stone buildings, corn driers and a post-Roman stone building. All of the 57 burials were radiocarbon dated. Of the 57 burials, there were

- 2 middle Iron Age adult burials
- 3 late Iron Age adults and 13 infants in settlement features
- 10 early Roman non-adults who had died around birth, all buried in pits, ditches or postholes

- 27 late Roman individuals, over half of which were non-adults who had died around birth. Most of the 12 adults were female, and mature adults predominated. Adult burial occurred in the vicinity of structures, and may have been grouped by sex. Some of the adults may have been buried with neonates and a double burial of a female and young child was recorded
- 1 post-Roman burial of a mature adult male was excavated from within a Roman building

At Wattle Syke, trends were detected, relating to period/adult burial skeletal position. Almost all the Iron Age adults were crouched or flexed on their sides. The Roman adult burials tended to be in cists in supine extended positions. There was less of a trend with neonates/infants - because some skeletons were not recognised on excavation, often in domestic features and also because it is more difficult to place a neonate into a specific position, as lying on the side or back with the legs flexed would be a natural position for a living infant to adopt and may not indicate deliberate arrangement of limbs. The differences in burial timing at Wattle Syke confirm that it was vital to do C14 dating, as it had been assumed that all of the infants, at least, would be of the same date.

Easington, E. Yorks, is a typical multi-period cemetery. It was in the vicinity of a henge monument, now lost to sea, as well as Bronze Age barrows and an RB settlement. There were

- 3 late Bronze Age cremation burials
- 1 Middle Iron Age and two late Iron Age cremation burials, two of which were located beside Iron Age boundaries
- 1 Roman cremation burial and 1 Roman inhumation
- 4 Anglo-Saxon burials, including a double burial, all of which were concentrated along the Iron Age enclosure and trackway as was also the case at Melton
- Features seen at Easington that appear to be typical of these continuity cemeteries included a Romano-British horse burial.

Ferrybridge Henge, W. Yorks, was characterised by numerous circular monuments that appear to be contemporary, dating to the Early Bronze Age (3,000 BC), including 1 henge monument, 5 barrows, 5 timber circles and 8 hengiforms. There were 32 burials, the earliest being Late Neolithic. Some period clusters were noted, with the L. Neolithic/EBA burials in the southern centre of the site. Late Iron Age linear boundaries divided the Bronze Age ritual landscape from the Iron Age/Roman settlement areas. Burial was focussed on the boundary in the Iron Age/Roman/early Medieval period.

A great surprise was a burial in the top fill of one of the pits from a pit alignment: this was high Medieval, dating to AD1330-1480. Had this not been radiocarbon dated, it would have been assumed that this burial dated to the Iron Age, or at most, Anglo-Saxon period based on its archaeological context. At Ferrybridge, unlike Wattle Syke, there was no pattern as to period, burial position or orientation. It was seen that individuals from all periods could be interred in flexed or crouched positions, including the high Medieval individual.

Nosterfield Quarry N. Yorks, is north of the three famous Thornborough Henges. At Nosterfield, the prehistoric landscape is divided by Bronze Age ditches and later Iron Age pit alignments, as at Ferrybridge. The burials from the different periods appear in clear clusters. There were:

- 1 Early Bronze Age burial associated with a Bronze Age barrow
- 11 Middle Bronze Age cremation burials
- 1 Late Iron Age skeleton interred in a square barrow ditch
- which was located beside a triple horse burial also dating to the late Iron Age
- 2 Roman burials, associated with a curvilinear structure

Within the perimeter of the barrow was an Early Bronze Age cremation burial of a female. Beside the barrow was a badly preserved secondary interment, dated to the Middle Bronze Age. A third burial, 20m to the west of this secondary interment was almost identical, yet when radiocarbon dated, proved to be Romano-British, ie. 1500 years later than the almost identical Bronze Age secondary interment. This suggests two possibilities: firstly that through story telling or place names, the knowledge of the nature of this burial was maintained for hundreds of years. Alternatively, the burials were both disturbed at a later date and placed in a heap, though there was no evidence for later disturbance.

Melton, E. Yorks, excavated in 2004-2005, prior to improvements to the A63. The site dated from the Bronze Age to the late Medieval period and included a Bronze Age barrow, large Bronze Age boundary ditches, an Iron Age track that was still used in the post-Medieval period, an Iron Age settlement and a Roman granary. There were:

- A group of Bronze Age burials beside/cutting a Bronze Age barrow
- A large group of early and late Iron Age burials clustered along major Bronze Age boundary ditches, plus another cluster, in an area of disused Iron Age round houses,
- A Roman inhumation of a baby in the posthole of a granary structure
- 5 Anglo-Saxon inhumations beside a track junction.

As at Ferrybridge, there was no pattern with regards to position, orientation, period, age or sex. Two interesting burials occurred beside the barrow and boundary ditches. These burials, two male adults, were interred on top of one another and both had a wooden box or bier, very similar to a Beaker burial from Ferrybridge. The lowermost skeleton was interred with 7 EBA beakers, and it was assumed both burials would date to the Early Bronze Age. When the uppermost skeleton was radiocarbon dated, it was found to date to the Early Iron Age, 1000 years later than assumed.

This is just one of many examples found when researching continuity cemetery sites. Are we looking at social memory and continuity or at re-invention of burial traditions, probably based on different ideas, such as re-establishing rights of land? There was a wide period span in the four cemeteries discussed. Some, such as Ferrybridge, cover 4,500 years, from the late Neolithic to the late Medieval period. There are different peaks at every site, with burials from one period being particularly well-represented. So, are these cemeteries merely multi-period cemeteries, used for reasons of topography or location for thousands of years, or are they 'continuity' sites, where funerary ritual continued for thousands of years? Some trends were observed at these four sites:

- They were situated in the vicinity of water (beside the sea or the rivers Ure, Aire, Humber).
- Henges or other large prehistoric earthworks, such as Bronze Age barrows were usually situated at these sites
- The burials had a tendency to be near large boundaries or tracks in liminal locations

- In the Iron Age, horse burials were one characteristic feature.

However, there was no pattern as to position, orientation, grave goods, age or sex per period. Any age group and either sex could be buried at these sites and any type of pathology can be observed. Possible theories have been put forward

- Bradley 1987: Evocations of time and memory and a communal cemetery focus
- Gosden and Lock 1998: genealogical memory – a social memory of the recent generation, including cleaning out and maintenance of barrow ditches, for example, and a mythical memory, such as stories about existing landmarks
- Lucy 2000: Legitimisation of claims of land and resources, maintaining inheritance claims
- Williams 2006: working and re-working of social memory through links with ancestors, creation of genealogies for communities and kingdoms through a concern for the past and staking claims over the present and future.

There appears to be a handing down of memory that can exist in one landscape over thousands of years, suggesting the possibility of change and transformation, as well as continuity.

Conclusions

- These multi-period cemeteries are not uncommon, but are often not identified because of a lack of radiocarbon dating, so it is essential to radiocarbon date. We should all push for more intensive radiocarbon dating programmes.

- The sites do not represent normal community cemeteries, but rather those where a select few were buried, though they could represent either sex and any age
- These cemeteries suggest that there is a social knowledge of a landscape, passed on through story telling or place names over thousands of years.

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- <http://www.archaeologicalplanningconsultancy.co.uk/thornborough/index.php>

Period	Easington	Ferrybridge	Nosterfield	Melton
Neolithic	-	4 cremations, 5 inhumations	-	-
Early Bronze Age	-	3 cremations, 2 inhumations	1 cremation	1 cremation, 1 inhumation
Middle Bronze Age	-	-	10 cremations, 1 inhumation	4 cremations
Late Bronze Age	3 cremations	1 cremation	-	-
Early Iron Age	-	1 inhumation	-	7 inhumations
Middle Iron Age	1 cremation	-	1 inhumation	-
Late Iron Age	3 cremations	4 inhumations	-	13 inhumations
Early Roman	1 cremation, 1 inhumation	2 inhumations	4 inhumations	1 inhumation
Late Roman	-	4 inhumations	-	-
Anglo-Saxon	4 inhumations	5 inhumations	-	5 inhumations
Late Medieval		1 inhumation	-	-
Total	13 burials	32 burials	17 burials	32 burials

Lecture Summary:

The Roman Pottery Kilns at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire: some thoughts on the landscape of production.

.....

Ian Rowlandson, October 2012

There was a breathless start to this lecture, as Ian had driven up from Hampshire and arrived in the nick of time, just as we were getting a bit worried. The lecture showed Ian is not just (in his own words) a 'sherd nerd', but someone with a much wider approach to the topic. He spoke so well off the cuff and shared, generously, his extensive knowledge of Roman pottery. And indeed, very few sherds appeared on screen at all.



Although most sites are now discovered through commercial development, an unusual occurrence was the exposure, in 1964, of a site in Chantry's Field, Market Rasen when a Valiant aircraft crashed, disturbing the overlying Medieval ridge and furrow and revealing the pottery site. Since then, many sites have been investigated and a huge quantity of pottery has been studied.

The lecture mainly covered five excavated sites, south of Market Rasen, Lincs, but other nearby sites were also discussed. There has been much building development in the area, in the last few years, resulting in several Planning Consent excavations. The research has thus, of necessity, been development led, rather than research led and Ian acknowledged that he was well aware of the bias in distribution patterns that this approach can produce.

The large number of RB pottery related sites in the Market Rasen area can be partly explained by the geology. The blue/grey Jurassic clay of the area is ideal for pottery making, and there are variable amounts of aolian sand overlying it, which was utilised as temper for the pots. Quarrying for clay was extensive, with areas of around 50sq metres used for extraction. Ian commented that it is possible that some landscape features which have long been interpreted as Medieval fish ponds are also likely to be the remains of RB clay extraction. As well as the quarrying areas, a pottery production site might be expected to have clay processing areas, pottery workshops, kilns, and a water source. In contrast to some post-Medieval pottery industries, such as Ticknall in

Derbyshire, the RB potters at Market Rasen utilised dispersed areas of working, giving the advantage that use can be made of more marginal land ie moist land or acidic sandy areas, unsuitable for agriculture.

It is not known whether all RB kilns were re-used, but stoke pits often show evidence of multiple uses, so it is likely that, after use, the kiln capping was sometimes repaired and re-used. Ian showed diagrams of how a kiln worked and explained where the archaeological evidence might occur. A short piece of film of the experimental kiln firings at Barton-on-Humber carried out in the 1970s by Geoff Bryant, a tutor for the WEA, was shown. All the pots appeared to be very well reduced (producing a black/dark grey fabric) and it could be seen that the kiln had been packed with grass at the top, to reduce the air gap and aid this effect. The kiln bars used to support the pottery were clearly shown. These experiments were highly significant at the time and have greatly advanced our understanding of how RB pottery kilns were fired.

Although some pieces of the fine 'Parisian' ware pottery were found at Hadrian's wall and the Antonine Wall, most of these were probably personal possessions, brought in individually, rather than part of the official military supply. The scale of the Lincolnshire RB pottery industry means that the people doing the potting and other production tasks may not have been entrepreneurs, but perhaps as Paul Buckland has suggested, slaves. A set of miniature vessels was found in Gordon Field in 1968, may represent apprentice pieces or even have been intended for (the dreaded word) 'ritual' use.

Ian said he had been determined not to present a lecture full of pot pictures and drawings, but in the end just could not resist showing us some pictures of the distinctive dark and often highly decorated Parisian ware – which he described as silky smooth – like Galaxy chocolate! *Editor*

The standard work on RB kilns is still The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain by Vivien Swan. The microfiche data can now be searched using an online GIS resource available here – http://mapdata.the.humanjourney.net/vgswandb_map.html

If you are keen to learn more about Roman pottery, the Potsherd website built by Paul Tyers remains the best port of call for those with internet. Although it is more focused on pottery found in the south of England, it provides references for all the major wares and a good bibliography for budding sherd nerds. For an interpretation of how the Roman pottery industries functioned, the work of Paul Buckland is a good place to start.

OBITUARY – Peggy Woodhouse

Margaret Woodhouse, always known as Peggy, died in January 2013, aged 92, a short while after a stroke. She had been a member of ERAS for very many years and along with her sister, often took part in ERAS trips and excavations, including the one at Walkington Wold.

Peggy had served in the ATS (Army Transport Service) during World War II and later worked as a telephonist in the gas supply industry. Despite seeming to have a slightly brusque manner, she was actually a very kind person and did a lot for friends and for various charities, although she never liked to talk about this.

Those war time deprivations must have made her tough. I remember being with her on an ERAS trip to Maiden Castle, where we were all shaking with cold as we climbed the steep embankment. I think she considered the shivers to be weaklings, as she told us, in no uncertain terms, to breathe deeply, relax our shoulders and stop shivering and we wouldn't feel the cold. She was right Peggy always said just what she thought!

She maintained her interest in archaeology all her life. Even though she didn't feel strong enough to attend ERAS meetings in the last three or four years, Alben Nicholson told me that she had still kept her little trowel. Peggy is remembered with much respect and affection by ERAS friends and colleagues.

Kate Dennett, with thanks also to Alben Nicholson

Ferriby Bronze Age Boats: Launch of New Reconstruction

After the post-launch sinking of the replica Dover boat, there must have been some tense moments as the latest reconstruction of the Ferriby Bronze Age boat finally took to the water. I note from *Salon*, the on-line newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries that the 5 tonne, 50ft, reconstruction based on the Bronze Age Ferriby boat which was excavated in 1963, was launched successfully in Falmouth, on 6th March. Under the guidance of Robert Van de Noort, volunteers together with shipwright Brian Cumby had built the sewn plank ship using replica Bronze Age tools and two oak logs. The project was part of an AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) project aiming to improve understanding of the handling qualities of such vessels, thought to have been used for trading between Britain, Ireland and the near continent. The trials used a crew of 18 people and it was reported that the ship handled well at speed. You can see pictures and a video of the launch if you go to

<http://www.falmouthphotos.com>

Kate Dennett, with thanks to Chris Catlin and The Society of Antiquaries

Books for Sale

The following, more unusual books/booklets donated by the family of the late Derek Brooks are amongst many more for sale from ERAS, either at lecture meetings or by contacting Angela Fawcett for prices on angela@dollydimple.karoo.co.uk

Bartlett, J. E. and W.J. Varley, eds. 1968. *East Riding Archaeologist*. Vol 1, Pt. 1. East Riding Archaeological Society.

Bartlett, J. E. and W.J. Varley, eds. 1973. *Walkington Wold Excavations, Bronze Age to Late Roman*, East Riding Archaeologist. Vol 1, Pt. 2. East Riding Archaeological Society.

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Godden, G. A., 1999, *New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks*. Barrie and Jenkins.

Hicks, J.D. ed. 1975. *Excavations at Scarborough, Woodhall & Hasholme*. East Riding Archaeologist Vol 2. East Riding Archaeological Society.

Hull Museums Publication No. 214. 1963 (Vertebrate remains from Kelsey Hill, Flint artefacts from Holmpton and Burstwick, Beaker burials from Brantingham, Melton and S. Cave, Belgic brooches from S. Ferriby, Celtic coins from S. Ferriby).

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Sheppard, T., 1929, *Catalogue of the Mortimer Collection of Prehistoric Remains from East Yorkshire Barrows*. Hull Museums Publication No. 162. A. Brown and Sons Ltd

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Wright, H. R. ed , 1936, *The City and Port of Hull*. City of Hull Development Committee.

Archaeology Tours in Bulgaria

Chris Fenton-Thomas, whom many will know from his work with On-Site Archaeology, is now living and farming in Bulgaria. He is also running an eco guesthouse at the farm, offering holidays touring archaeological sites of NE Bulgaria. At a cost of €550 for 6 nights accommodation, all meals and site entry fees it sounds pretty good. Dates are 19-25 May and 13-19 October, 2013

See their website at www.wildthymefarm.org
Or email hello@wildthymefarm.org

Greta Anthoons - Celtic Studies

ERAS member Dr. Greta Anthoons of Belgium has been awarded one of two annual prizes given by the Societas Celtologica Europaea. One of the aims of the SCE is the support of young academics and Greta was awarded the 2012 Johann-Kaspar-Zeuß Prize for the best Ph.D thesis in Celtic Studies. The title of her thesis, for which she did part of the research in East Yorkshire, is - *Migration and elite networks as modes of cultural exchange in Iron Age Europe: a case study of contacts between the continent and the Arras Culture*.

It is pointed out in a review by John Cruise in a YAS Prehistoric Research Section publication (Prehistoric Yorkshire **50**) of a paper entitled Chariots and Context: New Radiocarbon Dates from Wetwang and the Chronology of Iron Age Burials and Brooches in East Yorkshire, 2012, Jay, M., Haselgrove, C., Hamilton, D., Hill, J.D., and Dent, J. in Oxford Journal of Archaeology **31**(2) 161-189, that the authors support Anthoons' suggestion that there could have been a secondary horizon of northern European contact, 'emblematic of new international networks which developed after 300BC'.

The above mentioned paper, by Jay *et al* is also an interesting read for Iron Age specialists, as it appears there is now a significant gap in the brooch chronology, with any sites dated from brooches previously thought to be 1st century BC, now needing to be re-dated earlier. In view of these findings, next month's ERAS lecture by Sophie Adams, on Iron Age brooches is timely and promises to be of great interest to scholars of this period.

AVE CAESAR !



In appropriate pose, Jan, (6 mths), son of Roman pottery specialist Ian Rowlandson and Jaane, now living in Hampshire. Ian says Jan is showing an early interest in the Romans. No surprise really, as Jaane works at Fishbourne! *Your editor is thinking, hmmm - what about that ERAS trip to Fishbourne Palace, W. Sussex, which we talked about, but never got around to organizing ...?*

Hello to New Members

It's not always easy to get to know people at lecture meetings, so we'll try to introduce a few of our newer members in each newsletter.

Jessica Cater

Student, Jess, 14, is interested in history, science and writing. She found out about ERAS from the internet, also by word of mouth and joined in Jan 2013. She says she likes archaeology because of the fine detail it can tell you about the lives of people in the past.



John Carrot



I initially worked at York University's Environmental Archaeology Unit, and since 2001 at Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd (PRS), a small independent company in Hull owned and run by myself and Deborah Jaques. PRS provides specialist reports on biological remains from archaeological sites, the majority of our work coming from Yorkshire; hence joining ERAS last year might be said to be rather overdue!

We have been recently been involved in a multi-period site at Caythorpe (HFA), a Roman site at Healam Bridge (NAA) and Iron Age and Bronze Age sites in Cheshire. (Habitats & Hillforts Project). We were also the environmental specialists for Blanket Row, Hull, (East Riding Archaeologist, Vol.13).

We are currently involved in investigations of parasite remains from Gallo-Roman and medieval sites in France and charred cereal remains from a large *höyük* at Domuztepe, Turkey (for the BM), where deposits have been dated to the Halaf and preceding Ceramic Neolithic periods (*circa* 6300-5400 calibrated B.C.E.)

East Riding Archaeological Society

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00pm WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2013
ROOM S1, WILBERFORCE BUILDING,
UNIVERSITY OF HULL

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Secretary's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report**

6. Election of Officers

Committee nominations are:

Chairman	Fiona Wilson
Vice Chairman	Rodney Mackey
Programme Secretary	Richard Coates
Secretary	Rose Nicholson
Editor	Dave Evans
Treasurer	Kate Dennett
Website Officer	Dave Clarke
Field Studies Officer	Graham Myers
Marketing Officer	Samantha Braham

Any other nominations for the above posts should be sent to the secretary in writing no later than April 10th. Members wishing to nominate someone should seek that person's agreement before doing so.

7. Election of Five Ordinary Committee Members

Ordinary committee members who are willing and eligible to stand for election are Angela Fawcett, Colin Parr, Val Reily, Katherine Roe and Nick Wilson.

We have five nominations for five places. Further nominations are most welcome and may be made in advance or from the floor of the meeting. Members wishing to

nominate someone should seek that person's agreement before doing so.

Should there be more nominations than places, an election will be held for all five places.

8. Any Other Business

The meeting at **7.00pm** will be followed by the scheduled lecture -

'When East Meets West: Iron Age brooches from Yorkshire and Wales' by Sophie Adams

There will also be a book stall and we usually meet up for a drink after the meeting in the Good Fellowship Pub on Cottingham Road. Everyone welcome.

Visibility of Archaeological Features on Clay Lands: A Response from Stephen Sharp



In the last issue, we showed the above clay filled ditch, exposed in the roadside bank at Skidby/Cottingham roundabout roadworks. Rod Mackey was making the point that the clayey soil ditch-fill showed up well visually, but the ditch-fill is very similar to the background soil, and such features do not usually register well on geophysical surveys. He talked about the dangers of over reliance on geophysical surveys, when planning the route of pipelines across clay areas, such as Holderness. However, ERAS member Stephen Sharp, of Thorngumbald, responded, saying that whilst he has the utmost respect for all Rod Mackey has achieved over the years, he feels he must disagree. He was interested enough to send the following article for the publication.

More Thoughts on the Visibility of Archaeological Features on Clay Lands

Rod Mackey's thoughts, published in the last newsletter are timely, since there has been over ten years of developer led archaeology which continues at pace today crossing Holderness with high pressure gas pipelines and buried power cables. Yet they do not tell the whole story.

Geophysical prospection on the Tees to Saltend Ethylene Pipeline at the turn of the millennium found that resistivity surveys have a limited use when undertaken on glacial till. The first survey, preceding the Aldbrough Gas Storage site also used resistivity techniques to little effect and proved that the soil conditions have to be perfect for any sort of result. The subsequent fluxgate gradiometer survey, however, conducted by John Gater, of GSB Prospection, allowed the archaeologists to accurately target the archaeology although they still uncovered some surprises.

It was Gater's survey, in the same year, on the Langed receiving station at Easington, which revealed the full potential of using a gradiometer (*rather than a resistance meter. Editor*).

Since that date, gradiometer surveys have become a prime prospection tool and developments in sensitivity and plotting have improved the technique's usefulness. On the Easington to Ganstead pipeline, 163 sites of archaeological importance were revealed through a mixture of field reconnaissance, fieldwalking and gradiometer surveys along the course of the 44m wide working width of the pipeline easement for a total of 32km. By far the most useful was the gradiometer. The latest Easington to Paul pipeline at 23.5km long also found the routeway packed with archaeology. The geophysics surveys were conducted by David Bunn of Pre-Construct geophysics for Network Archaeology and Oxford North respectively. Both archaeological contractors have reported their preliminary findings at ERAS meetings in 2012.

Holderness is not an easy place to work, anymore than it is an easy place to farm. The soil 'gleys' with significant rainfall and tends to wash into any excavation or hollow. As the lead archaeologist on the Humber Gateway power cable suggested to me when digging at South Hill, Paull in Autumn 2011, ...'if the geo[physics] doesn't show when you dig to the natural, you need to dig out the natural (*or what you are interpreting as the natural. Ed.*) to see what's underneath'.

To suggest that resistivity surveys render the archaeology 'invisible' and that therefore geophysics do not work in Holderness, is to miss a significant trick.

Stephen Sharp

Interestingly enough, Stephen also pointed out, in his accompanying letter, that Holderness is still suffering from the great row between Thomas Sheppard and the Morfitt family in the early 20th century, which resulted in Canon Greenwell and many other Yorkshire archaeologists taking sides and the most significant finds from the area being spread throughout England.

The Roos Carr figures are in Hull, the Morfitt collection is lost within the Yorkshire Museum, the Holderness Cross is in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and the first Mesolithic harpoons are in the British Museum. Other important finds are in museums in Doncaster, Scarborough, Whitby and Sheffield.

Any chance of any remedial action here, I wonder?

Editor

Courses, event, etc

**Beverley's Past Industry Beneath Your Feet
The Treasure House, Champney Road, Beverley,
February 9 – April 6.**

A display of finds from recent excavations in the town by Humber Field Archaeology.

Bridlington Priory

It is the 900 years since the founding of the Augustinian Priory at Bridlington and many events are planned for this year. Details from <http://www.priory900.org>

Hull Geological Society, Hull University Geog. Dept Club Night, Tues 9 April, 7.45pm

Topic, Ammonites – an evening for society members, and interested general public. Bring specimens, photos, books etc. Be prompt as doors are locked at 7.50pm

CBA, Yorks. Basic 8 week archaeology course at Market Weighton Community Hall. £50

Weds 10 April. 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Learn to identify features & artefacts, drawing techniques, local archaeology. Details from Karen Adams, 07811 877469. pastsearch@hotmail.com

Talk by Dr Kevin Leahy on the Staffordshire Hoard. 19 April, 7.15pm Central Methodist Church, Jubilee Way, Pontefract. WF8 1NB

Pontefract & District Archaeological Society. Booking necessary. £5 Telephone 01977 798264 or email peggyevison@yahoo.co.uk

26 April – Sir Tatton Sykes and the Sykes Churches

Talk by Dr David Neave at Sledmere House. 7pm for 7.30. £10 including drinks and canapés.

<http://www.sledmerehouse.com>

26 April – 22 Oct Special exhibition of the Craftsmen of the Sykes Churches. Sledmere House.

4 - 6 May - Sykes Churches Open Weekend

Commemorating the centenary of the death of Sir Tatton Sykes, 5th Bt. of Sledmere. Special exhibitions, refreshments, etc. For details see eychurches.org.uk

Castle to Cottage: House and Home in East Yorkshire. YAS lecture at Beverley Treasure House, David Neave. Tues 14 May. 6.30pm. £5,

Bookings via the Treasure House, Beverley.

**CBA Field Trip to Elsecar Heritage Centre, S. Yorks.
Sunday 19 May. £20 incl. coffee, lunch & entrance fees.**
Near the M1, between M63 junctions 35 and 36, in the conservation village of Elsecar, former iron and colliery workshops, now house an antique centre, craft workshops.

9.45am registration, 10am talk and guided tour, 12am lunch, 1.30pm visit to Elsecar Heritage Railway displays and engines, and train ride alongside Dearne and Dove Canal, guided tour of Elsecar early industrial village and miners' and foundry workers' cottages. Bookings, with name, address, tel and Email, by May 3rd, to Louise Mallinson, 45 Frank Lane, Thornhill, Dewsbury, W. Yorks, WF12 0JW. Cheques payable to CBA Yorkshire

Hull Geological Society, Hull University Geog. Dept. Sat 1 June, 125th Anniversary, Lectures Meeting.

For details, Mike Horne, secretary@hullgeolsoc.org.uk

Prehistoric Society EUROPA Conference, The Rise of Bronze Age Society: new results from science and archaeology. 14/15 June. Bradford University.

Conference honouring Prof. Kristan Kristiansen, with spectacular results from recent research into people living in 2nd millennium BC Europe. Topics include: the Scandinavian copper & amber trade, funerary monuments, BA mobility, textile production & trade in Denmark & S.Europe, Scandinavian rock art, craft & creativity in Europe, DNA analysis of BA humans, settlement & land use in Jutland, representations of the human body in Scandinavian Bronze Age, Bronze Age societies in Eurasia. £65 (£30 student/unwaged) incl. lunches & reception, for the two days, though single days can be booked. Further details/booking form -

<http://www.prehistoricsociety.org>

or contact Dr Tessa Machling,

c/o Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Sq,

London WC1H 0PY

prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk

Council for Independent Archaeology Conference 2013 at Shipham, Somerset

Sat 21 September. Mick Aston will be opening proceedings with the full story of his investigations into the small village of Winscombe in Somerset. Plus lots of societies and independent archaeologists presenting.

Details skfoster@btinternet.com

3 June – 21 July. Googling the Earth: Online resources for discovering landscape archaeology.

Seven week online, certificated course by Cambridge Institute of Continuing Learning. See their website or email cory.saarinen@ice.cam.ac.uk

English Companions, Summer Lectures

St Roberts Conference Centre, Robert St. Harrogate.

Sat 3 August. 12.45. £3 (members £2). The group promotes research into the era AD450-1100. Speakers: Dominic Powlesland, Dr David Johnson, David Mosely.

Bookings to George Roe, 18 Heuthwaite Ave, Wetherby, LS22 6RR. Georgeroe@ntlworld.com

Cheques payable to English Companions

Editor

ERAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 20 Mar	Lecture: The East coast water pipeline excavation. Oliver Cooper, Northern Archaeological Associates
Wed 3 April	Field Studies meeting, Beverley
Wed 17 April	AGM at 7.0pm, followed by lecture at 7.30pm Where East meets West: Iron Age brooches from Yorkshire and Wales. Sophie Adams, University of Leicester
Wed 1 May	Field Studies meeting, Beverley
Wed 5 June	Field Studies meeting, Beverley
Wed 3 July	Field Studies meeting, Beverley
Wed 7 Aug	Field Studies meeting, Beverley
Wed 4 Sept	Field Studies meeting Beverley
Wed 18 Sept	Lecture

NB Please keep an eye on our website, as other field work or visits might be arranged for the summer.

Lectures are in Room S1, Hull University, Wilberforce Building, Cottingham Rd., Hull. 7.30pm.
Members free, visitors £1.

Field Studies meetings are at 7.30pm at St. Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley.
Contact Graham Myers on 07815 088573 for further details of Field Studies

I would like to join ERAS / renew my membership.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Tel

Email (please write clearly)

.....

I enclose a cheque made payable to ERAS for £.....

£5 (fulltime student rate, please state course and year).....

£15 Ordinary member £20 Family member

Please return form and cheque to the treasurer

Mrs Kate Dennett, 455 Chanterlands Ave., Hull. HU5 4AY