

# ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 76 SEPTEMBER 2011



*Rescue excavation of a burial at Middleton on the Wolds*

*Photo: K. Dennett*

*Local News ~ The Future of ERAS ~ Kilnsea Lagoons ~ Baswick Pottery ~ Heritage@Risk  
IARSS Conference ~ Boltby Scar ~ Middleton on the Wolds ~ Obituaries ~ Events & ERAS Diary*

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# **ERAS LOCAL NEWS . .**

## **Flint from Easington**

Antony Dickson and Mark Edmonds, who produced the flint report for the prehistoric site at Sewerby Farm, Bridlington, are currently cataloguing the flint assemblage from our Easington Barrow and Neolithic site, dug in the late 1990s. They are pleased to have the chance to examine this material and compare it to that from Bridlington. They will produce a report for us, together with illustrations done by colleagues from Oxford Archaeology. The pottery from the Easington excavation is being worked on by Terry Manby and John Cruse is in the process of assessing the querns in preparation for the final report.

## **Middleton Burial**

Katherine Roe, Sam Braham, Kate Dennett and Rod Mackey recently excavated a skeleton from beneath a porch being built onto the front of a house in Middleton-on-the-Wolds. The porch had not required planning permission, and the householder was quite surprised to come across a human skull within the first few minutes of digging his foundation trench. After consultation with police, Durham University and the coroner, and confirming that there were no modern criminal connotations, Dave Evans of HAP was able to offer ERAS the opportunity to check out the site to see if the rest of the burial was present, as indeed it was, or at least most of it.

A bone report is being carried out by Vaughan Wastling and is starting to look quite interesting. Isolated prehistoric burials have been found in and around Middleton, in the past, on the periphery of what was formerly a sand quarrying area. If approved at the next ERAS committee meeting, we are hoping to raise enough money locally, to get a radiocarbon date on our skeleton. A member of the ERYC Cultural Partnership was so impressed that the spirit of volunteering was alive and well that she gave a personal donation to start the fund and other donations have been offered by interested friends.

## **Geophysics course**

ERAS has funded Richard Coates and Colin Parr on a two day geophysics course at Bradford University. Looking towards getting more use out of our resistivity meter and perhaps updating our software and hardware we thought this 'techie' course would be a good use of ERAS funds.

## **Aerial Photography Interpretation Course**

ERAS has also booked two as yet unspecified members onto an English Heritage one day course at York on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. If you are interested in applying to ERAS for one of those places please email the editor or talk to a committee member at the next lecture meeting. If you hear of any other relevant courses, please let us know.

## **Driffield's Mortimer Plaque**

In the year of the centenary of his death, a heritage plaque has been installed on the front of what was J. R. Mortimer's purpose-built museum in Lockwood St., Driffield (now a Masonic Hall). The unveiling and a talk on Mortimer, by Stephen Harrison was attended by invited guests and a small exhibition featuring Mortimer's life and work, together with Victorian excavation tools was open to the public. ERAS put up display boards of more current archaeological methods and demonstrated the resistivity meter, albeit in a limited context, on the gravel drive. David Bull showed details of the LEADER programme and there was a guided heritage walk around Driffield.

## **Driffield Show**

Working with David Bull, Rural Communities Heritage Co-ordinator, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (a LEADER funded post) has been very productive this year. LEADER sponsored a Heritage marquee at Driffield show and ERAS was among several organization, including SAM, HAP, CBA and LRC to be offered a space there. Despite the poor weather conditions and the marquee's somewhat peripheral position, we had several hundred visitors. Our Publicity Officer, Sam Braham had asked us to count the number of people we spoke to, but there were so many, that it was impossible. Visitors seemed to be genuinely interested in our displays and activities. We had hoped to demonstrate the resistivity metre but didn't have enough people to help (completely our own fault) and space was at a premium. The day was very well organized, we were given free entry and it also provided a good networking opportunity.

## **Volume 12 of the East Riding Archaeologist**

If you are a paid-up member and haven't received your free copy of Volume 12 (the mauve one) please let us know or collect it from a lecture meeting.

## **Survey at Leven**

Leven's Local History group has asked ERAS to help find the exact site of the former St. Faiths Church at Leven, by carrying out a resistivity survey. The Leven group will help with the mechanics of the survey, but if you are interested in being involved in preparations, ie. setting out a grid to enable the results to be tied in to the OS map, then please email or phone me. We want more people in ERAS to be able to use the meter independently and although setting out the grid and planning the survey is not difficult, it is the bit which might make people hesitate to borrow the equipment. (If we do manage to purchase a more up-to-date level/theodolite, as planned, then it will be even easier) So please come along and learn how to tackle this aspect of surveying (date probably early October).

*Editor*

## **RECENT WORK AT 'FIELD STUDIES' MEETINGS**

Work continues on the pottery from the Arram excavation, with members learning how to assess the details of fabric types and conditions, under the guidance of pottery specialist Ian Rowlandson, along with Graham Myers and Richard Coates. It is slow, some might say tedious work, but as each sherd is examined, a standard set of questions is asked and answered by filling in a pre-printed sheet. If you are new to this work and have missed the training sessions, we do the work in pairs so you can still come along and work alongside someone else. There is much discussion and indecision - for example, exactly what are those shiny bits in the clay? Is it sand, quartz or other crushed rock? Is it flat enough to be crushed shell? Pass me the microscope. Does it have any signs of burnishing? Exactly what degree of abrasion does the sherd show? Do any other sherds join on to it? A consensus is gradually reached (and Ian will check them anyway!)

It's a good way to learn and the venue, upstairs at the community centre, is warm and comfortable with plenty of parking nearby, either on street or in the adjacent pub car park. If you are prepared to have a go and learn, please do come along and help get this pottery sorted as it is a massive job.

*Meetings are on the first Weds of the month at 19.30hrs at St. Nicholas Community Centre, Holme Church Lane, Beverley. You can just turn up or if you want to know more about what we do, contact Graham Myers on 07815 088573.*

## **ENGLISH LANDSCAPES & IDENTITIES PROJECT**

A major new five year project looking at changes to the English landscape from the mid Bronze Age to Domesday (AD1086) has been announced. Using 18 specified areas, the University of Oxford, School of Archaeology will use mapped data to explore continuities and changes in land use, culminating in a publicly available website *A Portal to the Past*. The project uses funding of €2 million from the European Research Council. Material from aerial photographs will form the basis, and information will be drawn from resources such as county archives, coin data bases, the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the British Museum, Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and local history experts. John Pybus of the e-Research Centre said the software should allow the cross-referencing and mapping of national patterns on a scale never attempted before. The portal should go live in 2014 via Oxford University School of Archaeology's website.

## **PREPARATION FOR NEW LAGOONS AT KILNSEA**

A new wetland habitat with lagoons, is being created by the Environment Agency south of the existing lagoons between Easington and Kilnsea, near Spurn Point. The project aims to create a good mixed wetland habitat for wildlife and so the lagoons will have varying depths and a range of vegetation. The land is both within and close to the former Kilnsea Fleet, which once cut through from the Humber in a north-easterly direction towards the coast, which would have been much further away in prehistoric times. The Fleet deposits can sometimes be seen exposed at low tide on the beach between Easington and Kilnsea, although the constantly shifting sands mean that you can never guarantee what will be visible. This was an area of intense ritual and probably domestic activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages and in advance of the lagoons being dug, West Yorkshire Archaeological Services (WYAS) won the contract to do the required archaeological investigation.

Twelve long trenches were dug by machine, under close monitoring, then cleaned by hand, by WYAS staff and any archaeological features recorded. Some of the trenches were fairly shallow (approximately one metre) and little of the bed of the old Fleet was exposed, although peat deposits were encountered in some trenches. Some undated pits and ditches and a post-hole were found on what is assumed to be the west bank of the Fleet. East of the Fleet, two trenches showed structural evidence in the form of arced segments of ring gullies with adjacent post settings and associated hand made pottery of Iron Age/early RB date, so are possibly round houses. Unstratified sherds of prehistoric pottery, possibly Bronze Age, were also found in the area.

Results so far indicate that more archaeological work needs to be done, but final decisions have still to be made. The Environment Agency might decide to relocate some of the lagoons away from the areas which have been shown to have archaeological remains (good for economic reasons and for preserving the archaeology, but frustrating, as it does not allow the whole picture to be revealed). The sites are on farmland, not really visible from the road, although the general area can be seen if walking along the top of the sea bank between Easington and Kilnsea. It is to be hoped that the important, but much neglected area of Holderness will be well documented in the new national mapping project recently launched by the University of Oxford, see left.

*K.Dennett*

*Thanks to Dave Evans for the update info on this site.*

## ***Pottery from Burshill Carrs***

*Further to the successful application by Richard Coates to ERAS for a grant for AMS dating of residues on pottery from Baswick Carrs, Richard has produced the article below, giving further background to the proposed work.*

The detailed report of the excavation of the Burshill Carrs ring ditch, first reported in December 2007 (ERAS News **68**), is in preparation. The analysis of the pottery archive which represents over 40 vessels is well under way. Normally, the dating of pottery is based on typological characteristics or occasionally, in a securely stratified context, by association with other artefacts. However, chronological dating by typology of the Iron Age, undecorated, hand built pottery typically found in East Yorkshire is very difficult. The range of native forms produced between the third and first centuries BC is similar throughout the period. Variations are more likely to be attributed to individuals working within a cottage industry rather than to any overall chronological trend. Some forms found in second century BC square barrows are still being produced after the Roman occupation of the region in the late first century AD.

At present there is very little information with respect to ceramic phasing during the later Iron Age in East Yorkshire. The Burshill Carrs pottery assemblage, probably representing a short time span, came mainly from the fill of the re-cut drip gully of the round house. In addition the assemblage is typologically similar in form to pottery recovered from Creyke Beck, Cottingham (Peter Didsbury pers.comm.). For these reasons the assemblage is considered to represent a significant ceramic group which may provide type-site data. AMS (accelerator mass spectrometry) provides a fast and accurate method of carrying out radiocarbon analysis on very small samples (milligrams) of carbon (Darvill 2002). Using this method the analysis of the carbonized residue from the internal surfaces of pot sherds can provide dating evidence relating to when the vessels were last used. The assemblage from the Burshill Carrs drip gully ring ditch provides an opportunity to carry out such analysis and ERAS are funding the <sup>14</sup>C analysis of five samples. The results from this analysis will provide a securely dated typological pottery group for the region. These results may then be compared with similar pottery from other sites and begin to provide a greater understanding of ceramics during the late Iron Age in East Yorkshire.

Darvill, T. 2002. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology*. Oxford: OUP.

*Richard Coates, with thanks to Ian Rowlandson and Rod Mackey for their assistance.*

## ***FOR SALE***

### **Forty Years' Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire.**

J.R. Mortimer, published by Brown & Sons, London, 1905. Coloured (foldout) map and frontispiece, half-tone plates and B&W figures. Original quarter dark-green leather spine with gilt titles and decoration; green cloth boards. Very good condition. Strong binding, but chipping and slight spilt to top edge of spine. Some wear from shelf use. A previous owner's name, T.G.E. Powell (prehistorian, Professor at Liverpool University), on inside front board. Same book on internet for £170-430 (August 2011). Offers over £120.00 to [daryl@dgarton.plus.com](mailto:daryl@dgarton.plus.com) [acting for present owner].

Can deliver to CBA Driffield Meeting – Mortimer 2011:

## ***ALSO FOR SALE***

### **Moot Hill, Driffield**

David Bull has drawn our attention to the sale, by public auction, of 2.33 acres of amenity land constituting almost the entirety of the Scheduled Ancient Monument 1015612 of Moot Hill Motte and Bailey Castle, Driffield. The sale is to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> September at Beverley Racecourse at a starting price of £25,000. David has proposed that the site be bought on behalf of the town. This would indeed seem to be the ideal outcome, especially as there appears to be a new awareness and interest in heritage in Driffield. Unfortunately we cannot tell you the outcome, as the sale will be happening just after this newsletter has gone to press.

## ***IARSS - IRON AGE RESEARCH STUDENT SEMINARS***

### **We are the children of the post-processualists!**

The above interjection from the audience, from Lucy Shipley of Southampton University, perhaps summed up this excellent small-scale conference at Durham this year. It is heartening to know that the quality and depth of research in Iron Age studies is so strong. The conference produced a really good, co-operative discussion and was very ably chaired by Jody Joy, Rachel Pope, Ian Ralston and Tom Moore, who all took time to listen carefully to the presentations and bring out the salient points. Tom Moore, summing up, commented that the speakers showed a very different attitude from those of the 1990s. Rather than the big ideas, big landscape stuff, it was all more personal. The big models – tribes, landscape, war/peace etc are being challenged, because we are now coming at it from a different angle. 'We are not scared to be wrong' said Paul Murtagh. 'We are not scared to be subjective' said Mhairi Maxwell. 'We can now be more creative in our approach' said Arthur Anderson. (contd. on page 6)

## ***LEADER Funding for Monuments at Risk Project***

ERAS has applied for funding for a project which will attempt to assess damage to monuments on the English Heritage At Risk Register. With the help of David Bull, ERYC Rural Communities Heritage Co-ordinator, the money is close to being granted, subject to some conditions to be further clarified within the next few days. The project manager is to be Richard Coates, assisted by Katherine Roe. The work will involve ERAS members carrying out geophysical and topographical surveying and fieldwalking of up to five At Risk Monument sites and may include a small amount of excavation and coring to answer specific queries.

Katherine Roe has put in a lot of effort and hard work in preparing the bid for funding which has not been easy and has involved a lot of consultation. As with any assessment of archaeology projects, there is always the problem of having to allow for the unknown. Thus should it be considered appropriate and essential that any excavation is required, there has to be provision for funding the processing and analysis of environmental samples and indeed the conservation of any artefacts and for publication.

Even surveying is not as straight forward as might be expected. When there is a tight timescale for the completion of the project, many different potential sites will have to be looked at, to be sure that we end up with enough sites where we have both the permission to survey, and access at the appropriate time with regard to the farmers' cropping schedules. Actually choosing the sites is a crucial and time consuming part of the whole procedure, so there will be a considerable amount of work to be done before we can make a start on the actual surveying which will probably take place during summer 2012.

You will be hearing more about the project at meetings, on the website and in future ERAS Newsletters. In addition on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October Dr Vince Holyoak of English Heritage will be giving a lecture about the wider aims of the project. We want as many people as possible to be involved in this project and if you are interested in helping, please email Richard on [coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk](mailto:coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk) or telephone: 01482 860891 to express your initial interest and start off the list of possible helpers. *K. Dennett, with thanks to Richard Coates*

### ***OTHER LEADER PROJECTS***

The Friends of St Andrews Weaverthorpe have secured funding from the LEADER Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways programme for geophysical surveys in the

churchyard of St Andrews and on the site of the adjacent medieval manor house of the Fitzherberts at Weaverthorpe with the hope of learning more about these two iconic sites. Included in the programme is an opportunity for local people and others to learn how to undertake resistivity and gradiometer surveys under the expert guidance of the Landscape Research Centre (LRC). In the longer term LRC have agreed to lend The Friends equipment to allow them to undertake their own surveys and The Friends and LRC will be running a further training session on understanding the results later in the year. Initial training sessions have already been held, but if you are interested in being involved please contact Pete or Jill Wilson at Rarey Farm, Weaverthorpe (01944-738282).’ (Dr) P. Wilson [Homeworker] Head of Research Policy (Roman Archaeology) English Heritage.

### ***IARSS - IRON AGE RESEARCH STUDENT SEMINARS (Contd. from previous page.)***

One of the presentations (all by higher degree students from Britain and Europe) which stirred much interest, was by Chris Timmins of Cardiff University, who looked at Iron Age enclosures and their locations in Wales. He commented that we should be more careful about how we use labels such as hillfort or farmstead. He had compared enclosure sizes and looked at the actual useable space within and had done much work on the *walking* distance between sites, concluding that on average there was an hour's walking distance between extended family enclosures and the same applied, even more so, between village type enclosures. All the village type enclosures he had looked at on the south coast were a one hour walk from each other and none overlooked the other. Looking at visibility, enclosures were often placed on 'islands' of visibility within non-visible areas.

This student had really got to grips with the landscape and been out there thinking and looking, in depth. However it was suggested that there were other forms of evidence he now needed to bring in to improve and anchor his research, especially in the area of chronology.

Another good presentation was from Mhairi Maxwell of Bradford University 'Faking it and Making it' looking closely at materials, including jet, antler and stone from Broxmouth Hillfort. Also Andy Tullett, Leicester University, in 'Wealth in Sheep's Clothing' looked at the 'gap' between the fall in demand for bronze and the increase in iron production and how this relates to the rise of a social interaction based on animal production.

Watch out for the publication from this excellent event.

*Kate Dennett*

# ***EXCAVATIONS AT BOLTBY SCAR HILLFORT IN NORTH YORKSHIRE***

On the way up to Durham for the IARSS conference this year, Rod Mackey and myself called in to visit Dominic Powlesland's excavation at Boltby Scar in the Hambleton Hills, North Yorkshire. Anyone who has read Madeleine Bunting's memoir of her father '*The Plot*' will be more than familiar with this landscape\*. Positioned on a promontory, with the land plunging down dramatically into the valley, Boltby Scar is the site of a significant prehistoric hillfort. Although the day we visited was rather wet, it was fairly calm, but was apparently the first day without an exhausting wind - quite a consideration on such a high, bleak and exposed site, when you have to shout to make yourself heard above the blast.

The excavators were volunteers, though mainly ones with an enviable track record in excavating prehistoric monuments. Dominic mused about excavation methods, commenting that sometimes we don't always think seriously about whether we can do it a better way, but just carry on recording in the traditional way... because that is 'how it is done'. Although he and his team were using some traditional drawing methods, he showed us some very impressive results obtained by using 3D cloud point data. The site data was being sent off to the University of Leiden, in Belgium for processing and then Dominic used his own software to view the amazing all colour, all dancing results, linked also to photographs, on his laptop, on site. The potential of this type of recording for archaeology is tremendous.

Despite being a scheduled monument, the fort was bulldozed in the 1960s and one of the first jobs for the team was to identify and record the marks left by the machine, along with other modern interference. There were also some barrows on the site and the earlier interventions into these had to be identified and recorded, leaving only a small amount of original mound. However, as happened on the Easington Barrow excavation, that small amount was enough to make some interesting observations and three phases of building were recognised and recorded on the Boltby barrow.

The entrance to the hillfort, with rubbish thrown into the adjacent ditch, as might be expected, was clearly identified. A section cut through the main ditch showed a very good sequence of infill including peat levels, formed after the site had gone out of use, the peat giving an unusual and valuable environmental sequence for the period.

At the time of our visit, Dominic said that the pottery was not giving conclusive dating, and commented that it was rather too grotty to be Late Iron Age and yet not quite like the earlier Staple Howe type pottery with which he is so familiar. Environmental samples from the land surface under the bank had been taken and were awaiting analysis. Although radiocarbon dating from a single hazelnut shell in the very bottom of the ditch had given a very early date, Dominic considered this was not sufficient evidence on which to base the dating. If you want to hear more about this site, Dominic will be talking about it at the day school in Helmsley on October 9<sup>th</sup> as listed in the events diary on page 10 and I would certainly recommend attending.



*A section of the main ditch, showing the infill sequence, including a thick layer of peat towards the top.*

*Photo: K. Dennett*

*\*Guardian journalist Madeleine Bunting wrote this 'biography of my father's English acre' in which she explores, incisively, her sculptor father's character through his overwhelming attachment to a plot of land close to Boltby Scar, which he purchased as a young man.*

*Thanks to Dominic for taking the time to show us around.  
Any errors in this summary are the responsibility of the editor.*

*Kate Dennett*

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF ERAS

For over forty years, ERAS has provided its members with opportunities to get involved with archaeology through its fieldwork, lecture programme and visits. However, membership levels have declined over the last two years and currently stand at around 200. Whilst this is not an alarming situation, we do need to actively promote ERAS, with a view to the next forty years. Going forward, we also need to ensure that our membership is involved in all aspects of ERAS so that we don't lose the variety of archaeological experiences we offer. We must broaden our membership base by attracting people from all age groups, in order to keep the society active.

With this in mind, it was decided at the April AGM that a new Committee Officer post would be created – Marketing Officer. I was duly elected to the Committee, and have taken on the responsibility for promoting ERAS. I have worked in customer services and sales for many years, and hope to use some of the skills I have learnt to increase our membership.

Thanks to Kate's help, we have ensured leaflets and posters advertising ERAS are once again in the Hull and East Riding Councils' museums and library services; as well as having leaflets in the new Hull History Centre. An email address has also been set up to answer any queries potential members might have, as this is now most people's preferred method of contact.

Similarly, we will make sure that our lecture programme is advertised as this is a great way to obtain new members from any lecture visitors. These people already have an interest in archaeology and history, and we must make sure that we capitalise on this opportunity by ensuring that we talk to visitors and make them feel welcome.

Involvement in external events has always been another good source of membership recruits. We must take full advantage of these events, and not be afraid to ask people (who we believe are genuinely interested in joining the Society) if they wish to join on the day. That this works is shown in our recent success at events in Driffield, where several people signed-up on the day, and we hope further memberships will follow.

We are also going to take part in this year's popular Heritage Open Days. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September we are taking part in Hull's Heritage Fun Day, in the Trinity Square and are also going to run our own archaeological guided walk on Beverley Westwood on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. These events should provide us with lots of

opportunities to talk to a wide, diverse group of people interested in archaeology, and so increase our membership.

Looking to the future, these strategies will help ERAS to increase and widen its membership base. This will enable the Society to thrive and develop not only for the next forty years, but into the twenty-second century.

*Samantha Braham*



*Sam – drinking a toast to the next forty years of ERAS, or on second thoughts, is she planning a big party for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ERAS? Now there's a thought ...*

*Sam also produced a piece for the newsletter about the Heritage Open Days (HODS) but unfortunately your editor did not get the newsletter out in time for it to be relevant. Sorry Sam.*

*She is also hoping to attend a short course, in the near future on using internet media to publicise volunteer groups. Editor*



## OBITUARIES



**Derek Brooks**

Derek joined ERAS a few years after it was founded. When, in 1967, the Society embarked upon its first major excavation on the Walkington Barrow, Derek was among the first to volunteer. Despite having no previous experience, he quickly became totally involved and within a very short time fully understood the excavation process and began asking pertinent questions. This was typical of Derek; he never did anything by half measures. By the end of that season he had become our 'right hand man', staying behind each evening to mull over the days findings, write up the site day book and decide our strategy for the next day. He continued in this role through the next two seasons, always giving intelligent, practical and imaginative contributions. He was invaluable to us.

Archaeology was not the only string to Derek's bow. In earlier years he ran a home printing press and played various musical instruments and later he started Swanland's village history group. He became a keen member of the local model aircraft club, building and flying his own models. A few years ago, when he was still attending ERAS lectures, I visited him to do a geophysical survey in his garden. He was keen to show me his latest project – building a JET engine for a model aircraft! He was busy cutting an intricate turbine from a block of aluminium. He was a highly skilled engineer.

Derek always met you with a friendly smile and a laugh. He was keen to help in any way, and for years after having his own heart bypass operation, he spent one day a week in the hospital re-assuring others awaiting theirs. He will always be remembered for his incredible range of skills, his true commitment to everything he did and above all his warmth and kindness.

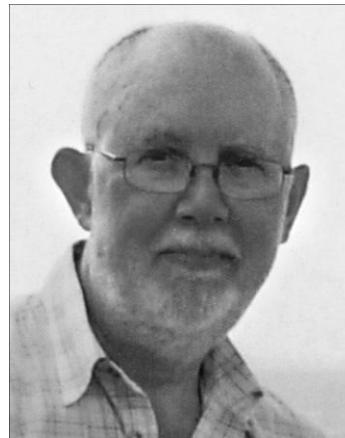
*Rod Mackey*

## **Peter Bartle**

You might have met Peter through the Field Studies Group, when he quietly, but effectively directed a study of Bainton, coordinating a survey of 'Hilly Fields' with the historical records. As a professional architect, he was well equipped for this project, but never paraded his knowledge. He improved our surveying techniques, while at the same time, encouraging people to pursue their own contributions, and then presented the results at one of the September 'round-up' sessions. Peter had many talents, some of which became apparent only gradually: he was not one to put himself forward, but sometimes could be persuaded, and at one ERAS dinner he played and sang folk tunes, enlivening the whole evening.

It was during an ERAS trip that I discovered another of his skills: while the rest of us had been loitering, chatting before returning to the coach, he had produced an atmospheric sketch, which I tried to commandeer for the newsletter, but was politely diverted, only to be presented with a more polished version later. I would have been very happy with the original! He told me his ability to draw quickly was learnt when he worked for the Church Commissioners, a job involving long train journeys. If something caught his eye when the train stopped, he would try to capture it in a drawing before the train moved on.

When he was working on Whitby Abbey, Peter still found time to come to Field Studies to show us the project's progress and explain the difficulties in marrying the need for a visitor centre and parking and the excavation of the area around the 17<sup>th</sup> century building, without detracting from the spectacular, isolated, cliff-top position of the abbey itself. Peter's architectural interests extended much further, involving ERAS members in a study of Hull's early hydraulic power network, the first public system of its kind, designed to transmit mechanical power via interconnecting pipes carrying pressurized liquid ... I digress a little, but then Peter's enthusiasm was infectious.



There are so very many things for which Peter will be remembered – for his help with the Field Study Group and on ERAS outings, for his work at Bainton, for his drawings in the newsletter and most of all, for his kindly encouragement. We are all so grateful to Peter for the time he spent with us.

*Valerie Fairhurst*

## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### Sat. 17 September

**Day School in memory of J.R. Mortimer** (1825-1911) eminent antiquarian and author of *Forty Years Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire*. Includes talks on landscape, settlement patterns, geophysics, aerial photography, excavation, isotopic analysis, artefact studies.

Speakers -

Alison Sheridan, Bryan Sitch, Nicky Milner, Alex Gibson, Janet Montgomery, Peter Halkon, John Dent, Dominic Powlesland, Dave Evans, John Cruse, Vin Davis, Kurt Hunter-Mann, David Bull.

Driffield School, Manorfield Rd, Driffield, YO25 5HR,  
10am – 5pm, £10 including tea/coffee

Bookings, with cheques payable to CBA Yorkshire and enclosing SAE, to  
Mortimer 2011, CBA Yorkshire,  
c/o 12 Beverley Drive,  
Molescroft,  
Beverley. HU17 9GG

Further details –mortimer2011@cba-yorkshire.org.uk

### Sat 17 September

Local History Bookfair. The Treasure House, Beverley,  
10am – 4pm.

### 30 Sept – 2. Oct

**World Class Heritage:** Archaeology of York Conference, to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the *York Development and Archaeology Study*. The York Archaeological Forum is sponsoring a conference to launch the process of developing a new strategy for the city's archaeology and historic environment. Speakers include – Martin Carver, Blaise Vyner, Allan Hall, Cath Neal, Mark Whyman, Nicky Rogers, Peter Connolly, Alison Sinclair, Peter Addyman, John Oxley, Jim Johnson, Neil Redfern, John Kenny, Sarah Maltby, Andrew Morrison, Patrick Ottaway.

[http://www.york.gov.uk/leisure/Local\\_history\\_and\\_heritage/Archaeology/conference](http://www.york.gov.uk/leisure/Local_history_and_heritage/Archaeology/conference)

### Sun 9 Oct 2011

#### **The Archaeology of the North York Moors**

A day school organized and supported by North York Moors National Park Authority and Helmsley Archaeological & Historical Society. 9.45am – 5pm at Helmsley Arts centre. £10 including tea/coffee. Speakers Dominic Powlesland on Boltby Scar excavations 2011, Ed Dennison on recent NY Moors surveys, Blaise Vyner on fieldwork on Fylingdales since the fire, Paula Ware on the Archaeology of Helmsley,

T. Sutcliffe on NY Moors National Mapping Programme, B. Harrison on NY Moors Historic Building Recording, G Lee on Industrial Archaeology and Windy Pits Update, Mags Waughman on The Mesolithic in the NY Moors  
Info/bookings [g.lee@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk](mailto:g.lee@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk)  
Cheques payable to North York Moors National Park Authority, and send to Graham Lee at  
The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York. YO62 5BP

### Sun 9 Oct

#### **CBA Field Trip to Rievaulx**

11.15am Guided tour of the abbey ruins, followed by free time for lunch (own picnic or use the café) followed by 2 hour guided walk along the valley with EH landscape archaeologist.

Bookings with cheques payable to CBA Yorkshire, and giving name address and telephone or E-mail to Trevor Pearson, 37 Tanner Row, York YO1 6WP  
English Heritage members £8,  
Non –member, £12 .50  
Concessions £12.00  
Children £10.50

**Hull & E. Riding Branch of the Historical Association**  
**For full details of the events listed below, please contact Sylvia Usher on 01482 448065**

**Sat 24 Sept.** Guided walking tour of Pickering with York HA branch.

**Thurs. 6 Oct.** Lecture: The King James Bible: Monument and Myth. Dr Peter McCulloch, Oxford University.  
Venue – Holy Trinity Church, Market Place, Hull. 7.30 pm

**Thurs. 10 Nov.** Lecture: The 'English Lowlands' and North Sea Basin system: A History of Shared Risk. Prof.Greg Bankoff, University of Hull.  
Venue – Danish Church, Osbourne St. Hull. 7.30pm

**Thurs 19 Jan.** Lecture: Roman cities from the outside in: the visitor's perspective. Dr Penelope Goodman, University of Leeds.  
Venue – Danish Church, Hull. 7.30pm.

**Thurs. 23 Feb.** Lecture: Earth Women and Eagle Warriors: Gender and Human Sacrifice in Aztec Culture. Dr. Caroline Dodds Pennock. University of Sheffield.  
Venue – Danish Church, Hull. 7.30pm.

**Thurs. 22 March.** Lecture: The Golden Age of Buccaneers, Piracy and Privateering, 1660-1783. Dr David J. Starkey. University of Hull.  
Venue: Danish Church, Hull 7.30pm.

# ***ERAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

Wed. 21 Sept	First Lecture: Reports evening. A round-up of recent work in the region.
Wed 5 Oct	Field Studies Meeting
Wed 19 Oct	Lecture: Dr Vince Holyoak. English Heritage. Mitigation Impossible? The Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation Project
Wed 2 Nov	Field Studies Meeting
Wed 16 Nov	Lecture: Adam Daubney, Portable Antiquities Scheme. Recent Portable Antiquities finds from Lincolnshire
Wed 7 Dec	Field Studies Meeting.
Wed 21 Dec	Lecture: Steve Sherlock, freelance archaeologist. Streethouse Farm, North East Yorkshire: a multi-period site.
2012	
Wed 18 Jan	Lecture: Dr Peter Halkon, University of Hull. Iron and Arras Culture: Power in the Landscape of Iron Age East Yorkshire.
Wed 1 Feb	Field Studies Meeting.
Wed 15 Feb	Lecture: Paul Flintoft, Network Archaeology. The Archaeology of the Easington to Ganstead Pipeline.
Wed 7 Mar	Field Studies Meeting
Wed 21 Mar	Lecture: Janet Spavold & Sue Brown. Ticknall Pots & Potters. Research on a Derbyshire Pottery Industry.
Wed 4 April	Field Studies Meeting
Wed 18 April	AGM at 7.00pm, followed by Lecture: Stephen Rowland, Oxford Archaeology North. The Archaeology of the Easington to Paul Pipeline

All lectures are held in Room S1 of Hull University's Wilberforce Building, Cottingham Rd., Hull. At 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

I would like to join ERAS / renew my membership.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Tel .....

Email .....

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 L. Jackson, 24 St Stephens Close, Willerby, E.Yorks. HU10 6DG