

ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 61 June 2005



Geometric images, Twyfelfontein, Namibia

Photograph: Susan Gibson

♦ Arram Dig & Open Day ♦ Namibian Rock art ♦ French Forays ♦
Committee Notes ♦ National Archaeology Week ♦ From the Bookshelf ♦ Diary Dates

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ERAS Local News

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR FREE VOLUME 11

East Riding Archaeologist, Volume 11, *Pits and Pots* by Ian Stead and Val Rigby, is devoted to a study of East Yorkshire's Iron Age pottery. If you haven't yet got your copy, you can collect it from the following people, by arrangement, or wait until lectures start in September.

Ed Dennison, Beverley, Tel. 870723

Helen Fenwick, University of Hull, Tel. 465543 (day)

Kate Dennett, Chanterlands Ave. Hull Tel. 445232

Those not collected by October will be posted out (using funds we'd really rather spend on archaeology)

MORTIMER 2005 CELEBRATIONS

VISIT HULL MUSEUM - NO PARKING PROBLEMS!

For all you West-Yorkshire members who have never visited the excellent and extensive displays at Hull & East Riding Museum, if you book for the Mortimer 2005 Celebration day in November, at Hull University (easy to find and plentiful parking) it includes a coach trip from the university into the city centre to visit the museum. The displays include prehistoric artefacts, an Iron Age roundhouse, the Hasholme boat, a wonderful Roman gallery with bath-house, mosaics and street scene, an extensive new Medieval gallery and much more. It is worth the coming to Hull just to see the museum, but the day, based on the work of antiquarian J. R. Mortimer, includes talks by Dominic Powlesland, Richard Bradley, Chris Fenton-Thomas and John Dent. See the Diary page for booking details.

CONGRATULATIONS TO -

Fiona Wilson received the King Award for her work at Arram. Although this is only a small grant, towards costs it is a recognition of the quality of work. Fiona gave a talk at the annual CBA symposium in York and the award was presented on the same day.

Also congratulations to Peter Halkon who has been made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. The Valley of the First Ironmasters Website also won Hull University's

Vice-Chancellor's Award of £4000. This is to spend on enhancing the existing website (rather than starting a new project to add Medieval period data) and will be an opportunity to add material which there was not time to include in the initial phase.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY AT ARRAM

We really need **your** help for the open day at Arram on Sunday 24th July. Firstly, there will be lots of excavation to do in the three weeks prior to the Open Day, to ensure there is something interesting for the public to see and that it is clean and tidy enough for people to be able to distinguish what is happening. Secondly, on the day itself, we will also need lots of help, so turn to page 4 to see how you can get involved. Yes, this really means **you**.

FIELD STUDIES MEETINGS

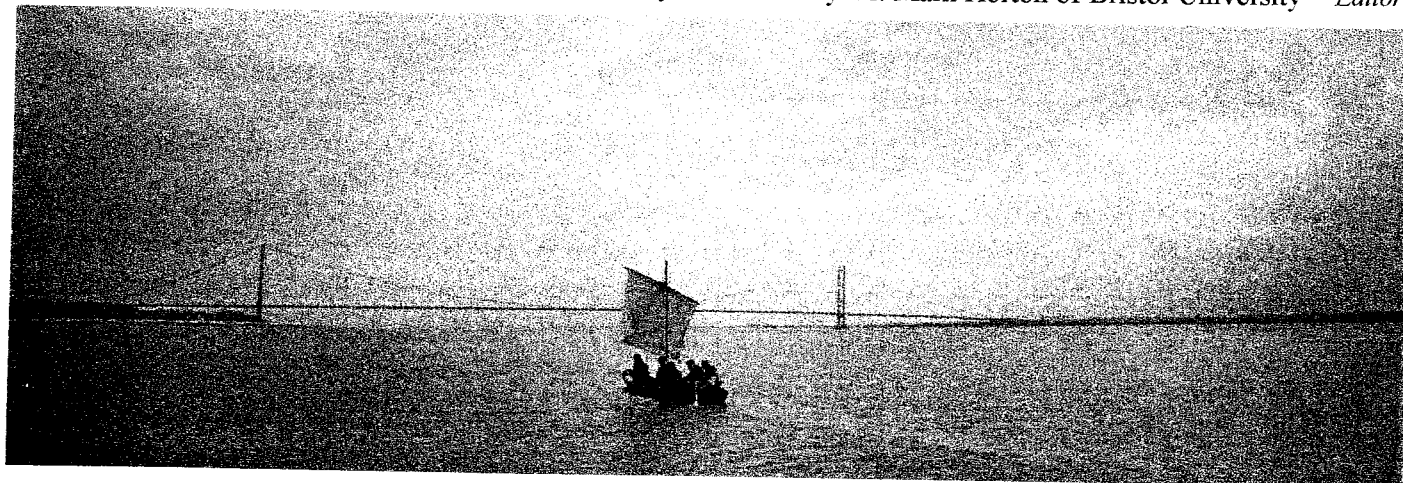
Apologies to those who came to the June meeting and didn't have anything to do. We will get some Arram pottery left at the rooms with pens, inks etc, so that if nothing else is going on, people will be able to get on with the tedious, but necessary job of marking-up pot sherds.

EXOTIC CONTENT OF JUNE'S ERAS NEWS

Thanks to Sue Gibson, who wrote about rock art in Namibia and to Lesley Jackson, our 'French Correspondent' for articles in this month's newsletter. We might be continuing the exotic theme, next time, with news from Cambodia, if our Far Eastern Correspondent has time!

SAILING TRIALS OF BRONZE AGE REPLICA

The half size replica of the Bronze Age, Ferriby boat, which Edwin Gifford kindly allowed us to bring to his lecture this year has had sailing trials on the Humber and performed well. The trials were filmed for a BBC TV series called *Coast* to be screened in July/August for the National Sea Britain Festival. Thanks to John Davis Associates for this information and the photograph below, taken by Dr. Mark Horton of Bristol University *Editor*



National Archaeology Week

Arram Open Day - Sun 24 July

Fiona and Will are planning an open day at Chapel Garth, Arram and have been getting together with committee members and other interested volunteers to plan activities. The public will be admitted from 10am but lots of help will be needed the day before and early on the Sunday morning. The excavation itself will be open, for the public to see, with tours, explanatory signs and opportunities for visitors to take part. (As the dig is officially 'affiliated' to Time Team's Big Roman Dig, it has received a little donation and can be on their website)

Some Iron Age and Roman costumes are being hired, but its expensive and Fiona is asking for members to turn up in home-made costumes if possible. If anyone is especially interested in costume and is willing to co-ordinate ideas, offer advice or help with making costumes please contact Fiona or Will on the number below.

Rod Mackey will demonstrate the making of hand built pots using locally dug clay and visitors will also be able to have a go. There will be a range of other potsherds for visitors to handle and attempt to date. There will be a display of finds from the site and visitors will be able to help with pottery washing.

Resistivity surveying will be demonstrated and people will be able to try using the meter.

Wattle and daub panels could be a nice messy activity to occupy children. Will can cut willow or hazel and supply mud. Any expertise welcome (As it is a public event, CBA are insuring us separately for this special day!)

Spelt wheat will be available, together with a quern borrowed from the Hull and East Riding Museum's Schools collection so people can try grinding corn.

Other possible activities are a metal detecting demo, Time line tombola, a children's sand-pit and a 'how many potsherds can you find in one minute?' game. Car parking will be on the Chapel Garth field and pre-packed refreshments will be on sale. For other local events see page 13

More ideas and help welcome

If anyone has experience of running this sort of day and has any more fun, but practical ideas, or is willing to help on the day, please ring Fiona Wilson

Tel. 01964 550831

or email will@arrambec.freemove.co.uk

Arram 2005 Excavation

Volunteers needed

It is hoped that the crop will be off the field by the end of June, weather permitting. **Experienced volunteers, by arrangement only** will be needed for the first week, starting after July 2nd. Please ring Fiona beforehand on 01964 550831

From 14th July, once the excavation is up and running, all volunteers are welcome, and the working week will be from **Wednesday - Sunday** this year. Its best if you can ring or email first to say which days you will be coming. If you can commit yourself to a set period of consecutive days, all the better, as we get more continuity that way and it is more likely that you will be able to finish both excavating and recording your area.

If you are new to excavating, you must make sure you have an up-to-date Anti-Tetanus jab and everyone will be asked to sign to confirm this. Most equipment is provided, but if you are going to buy your own trowel, get a 3" or 4" WHS trowel. (cheaper bendy ones are not much good) Put your name on it (where do those lost trowels get to?) Bring a waterproof kneeling mat, safety boots or shoes if you have them and your lunch. Hot and cold drinks are provided for lunch and breacktimes.

Unfortunately, the CBA insurance will not allow under 18s to work on site (except on Open Day) unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult. No experience is necessary and you will be given a copy of our beginners guidelines. The most important thing to remember is - if you are not sure **what** you are supposed to be doing, exactly **how** you should be doing it - or **why** you are doing it, please ask. And if you are still not sure- then ask again. It is vital that you understand what you are doing.

The nature of the clay soil at Arram does make excavation difficult for beginners, as the clayey fill of the ditches and pits looks and feels very much like the background material into which the features are cut. Only experience will enable you to distinguish one from the other, but help will always be available.

Last season's excavation revealed a complex of Iron Age and Romano-British features, although no radio-carbon dating has yet been done. A number of small, but relatively deep ring ditches, possibly associated with bronze working were excavated together with larger enclosures and some possible round-house gulleys.

We hope for warm dry days for excavation, rainy nights, to prevent the site drying out too much and lots of loyal and consistent volunteers to dig and record the site.

FRENCH FORAYS

From your French correspondent, here is the first of an ad-hoc series of forays into French archaeological sites. Our first trip was to Gergovie, the oppidum of the Averni, site of Vercingetorix's celebrated defeat over Caesar. Gergovie is in the Puy-de-Dome department just south of Clermont Ferrand. Take Junction 4 off the E11 motorway. The site is signposted and is a few miles away from the junction.

It is easy to see why the Averni chose this site. A plug of basalt, with a flat top and steep sides, it rises about 360m above the surrounding plain. The views are awesome. The site also had the essential permanent water supply, though when we were there it seemed to be mostly underfoot! There are picnic sites and walks, for times when the weather is kind, but I suspect it is often cold up there. There were still patches of snow on a few north-facing slopes at the end of March. For the less intrepid, there is a cafe restaurant in the main parking area.

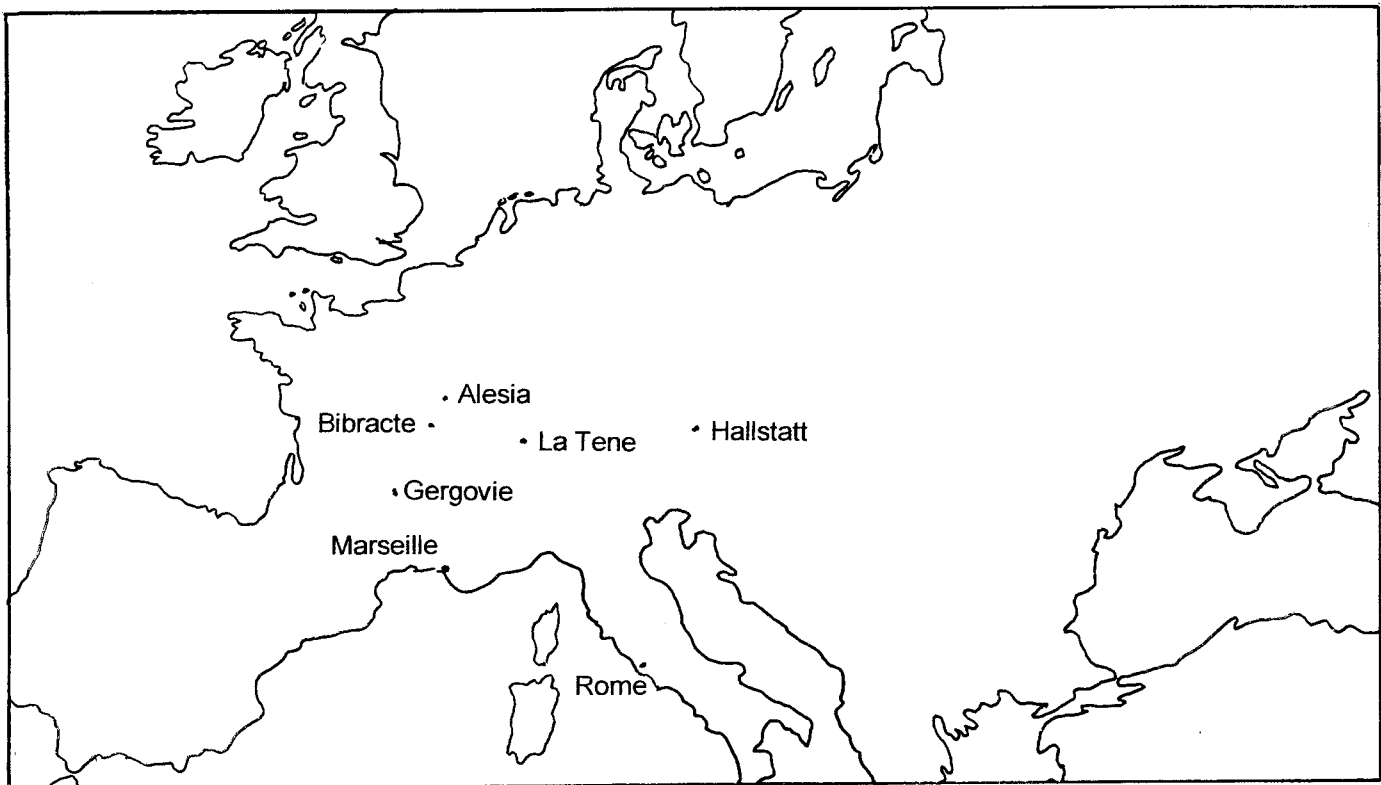
While the site is definitely worth a visit, the archaeology is not immediately visible and most excavated material is post-Vercingetorix. A few Romano-Gallic temples have been found. The signage is non-existent and it is not clear if the piles of stones are spoil or archaeology. (I will never complain about English Heritage sites again!) There is a museum, but unfortunately, I can't tell you what it is like, as it is only open May - October and weekends in April. Like all French museums, it is closed Mondays. The site is best appreciated as a famous battle site. Unusually, for

most archaeological sites, we do have information about what happened and the personalities involved. Those of you with an active imagination will be able to visualise the drama taking place, so it is worth doing a bit of background reading on the relevant section of the Gallic Wars. It would have been nice to go on to Alesia and to the heroic last stand of Vercingetorix (not that your correspondent is in any way biased!) That, however, will have to wait until our next trip in July. The Auvergne is a lovely region to visit and there are a number of archaeological sites in the area. It definitely merits a longer trip.

Our second trip was to the Roman town of Glanum which is about two miles south of St.Remy-de-Provence in the Bouche du Rhone department. This whole area is awash with archaeological sites and could keep you occupied for a few weeks.

The site itself is picturesque, the oldest part being set in a narrow valley cut into the Alpilles range. This is a small but very dramatic range of limestone hills. Walking up to the site you pass a field of olive trees where Van Gogh painted 'Les Oliviers.' Before you enter the site are the 'Antiques' a substantial arch which marks the limit of the town and a mausoleum. These were the only visible signs of the town, before it was excavated in 1921. Excavation work is still in progress and only an estimated sixth of the site has been uncovered.

Entry is about six Euros and the site is closed on



French Forays (contd.)

Mondays. There is a mini-museum on site and my guide book mentioned a museum in St. Remy for other finds but we were told that this is closed. There is a lot of chunky masonry to see and plenty of interpretive signs. These are of course, mostly in French (but how many English sites provide translations?) So take a dictionary or buy the English guide book. You can wander in and around the ruins and get a good impression of the site. Even a casual wander will take an hour. For those willing to make the short, steep climb to a scenic overlook, there are great views.

Glanum developed in about the sixth century BC around a sacred healing spring. It became, first, a Greek town, in the 2nd century BC and then a Roman town. The spring was eventually dedicated to Valetudo, a Roman goddess of health. You can still walk to the sacred pool, down some wonderfully evocative and worn steps. Throwing anything into the water is strictly forbidden and unusually there were few votive offerings. Similar injunctions for sacred pools in England are inevitably ignored. I cannot vouch for the healing properties of the water, but it didn't look very safe to drink!

For lunchtimes, there is La Taberna Romana on site, which serves Roman food. Frustratingly it is only open from April-August and we were a week too early, so I can't report on it. We ate well at St. Remy which has plenty of cafes and restaurants. Another Roman style offering in the area is Mas des Tourelles, a reconstructed wine cellar. This produces wine from classical recipes adding spices, herbs, honey and most intriguingly, sea water. As you will have guessed, it is open from April to October. For those of you who select the right time of year for your trip, it is near the town of Beaucaire about eight miles east of St. Remy. In the interests of research, we will be returning in season, next year.

Lesley Jackson. March 2005



1st century BC coin of Vercingetorix. (Bibliothèque nationale, Paris) From Le Monde des Celtes, Hurt, V & V. Montens.

Committee notes

Some items discussed at the last committee meeting are listed for your interest.

Publication of Easington site: As finalists in the British Arch Awards, ERAS is invited to apply for further funding for publication, from the Robert Kiln Trust. Specialist's reports on lithics and pottery are ongoing.

Geology Month: 4 committee members to man a stand at HERM, in May, showing ERAS's work. Appropriate panels being produced for this and future displays.

Social Evening: Heating at the Friary is not satisfactory. New venue being sought for next year. Suggestions?

Cresswell Trip: V. good. Thanks given to V. Fairhurst.

Mortimer 2005 Celebrations: Arrangements in hand for centenary celebration dayschool, in November, including visit to Hull and E Riding Museum. P. Brayford to liaise with T. Manby.

Valley of First Ironmasters: Website will benefit from Peter Halkon's Vice-Chancellor's Award (see page 3)

Book Tokens for Speakers: It was agreed to reinstate the tradition of giving a £20 book token to speakers, who do not ask for a lecture fee (2004-5 speakers included).

Publication: Dave Evans to prepare a flyer advertising Volume 11 to universities, libraries. Volume to be £16 excl P&P. Volume 12, already being edited, includes large 'round-up' and several short grant-aided reports.

Committee 'Portfolios': Chairman proposed committee members take on specific responsibilities, (many of which are already being done). H. Fenwick- health & safety and book distribution liaison; L. Jackson- membership; K. Dennett- Newsletter; F. Wilson- Equipment inventory; P. Halkon (+ D. Clarke, P. Brayford)- VFIM Website; G. Ainsworth- welcoming and informing potential/new members at lectures; R. Mackey- reporting back on field study meetings.

ERAS's CBA Insurance: Situation regarding under 16s on trips & excavations needs to be clarified urgently. Some organisations appear to think there is no lower age limit with CBA insurance, but ERAS finds otherwise.

Arram Excavation & Open Day: Agreed to fund 2005 season for £500 (hire of mini-excavator and purchase of Portaloo to be investigated). Help needed with open day planning and activities.

Rock Art in Namibia

As a keen observer of rock art in its natural setting, when I knew I was going to be based in Namibia for 2 years as a volunteer with VSO, I was excited to learn how much rock art the country boasted. However, getting to see it wasn't going to be that easy. Based in a small town without the benefit of a car and with meagre public transport it wasn't going to be straight forward. Even though many private farms in the Omaheke Region where I was based were said to have large concentrations of rock art, they are not widely publicised and only mentioned on farms which take in guests, and to visit these farms you need to stay overnight, and to get there you need transport...

I had already seen the small collection in the museum in Namibia's capital, Windhoek, but this was mainly illustrations and, sadly, the famous Apollo 11 Cave portable rock art - believed to be the oldest in Africa (dated to around 27,000 BP by radio-carbon dating the charcoal) - was not on display. My desire to see the 'real thing' was heightened by a Christmas trip in December 2003 to the museum in Cape Town, South Africa which has an excellent rock art collection with some panels 'rescued' from their original locations. In fact it wasn't until my second year in Namibia, when I bought a car so I could see more of the beautiful country in which I was based, that I actually got to see some of the wonderful art in situ.

My first sight of some 'real' art was with friends on a weekend trip when we fitted in a trip to Phillips Cave set on a guest farm in the beautiful Erongo mountains. Our visit was enlivened by heavy rain and flooding from the mountain which nearly washed our tent away and a sustained and vicious attack by fire ants! However, it was worth it. The art was reached after a 30-40 minute hike from the campsite up the side of the mountain to a cave which was only visible when you were right upon it, concealed as it was by huge granite boulders and trees. You were permitted to view the art on your own without a guide, which I really liked. This is no longer possible at major sites, due to acts of vandalism which now necessitates the use of guides.

The 'cave' was tear-shape and actually was more cave-like than many of the other rock shelters where such art is usually found. The views from the cave were stunning, and this must have been a special place to the artists who long ago produced the images. The fact that we could spend as long as we liked looking at the art was great as the longer you looked, the more you could see. My friend, Poniso, a Namibian, had never seen rock art before, but it wasn't long before she started to 'find' art in the cave; 5 handprints which were in a low-lying portion of one of the outer edges of the cave, which could only be seen by kneeling down and putting your head into the



Philip's Cave, Erongo

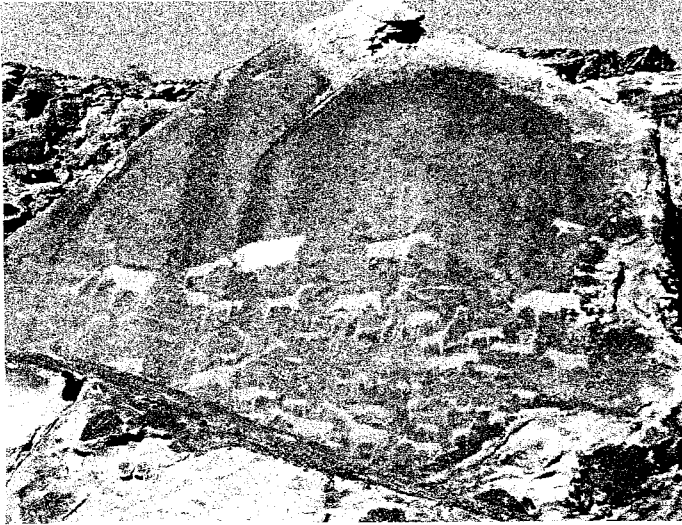
Photo: S. Gibson

recess and looking up. The most famous painting in the cave is that of the 'White Elephant'. In fact, there are a couple of white elephants, plus many other animals. Charcoal from the cave was radio carbon dated to 3370 BP by Abbé Henri Breuil, a keen prehistorian, who visited many sites in the 1940s and '50s. This date is said to correspond well with the dating of the paintings.

My next visit, a few months later, was to Twyfelfontein (Doubtful Spring), a place frequented by the elusive desert elephant. I was unlucky - I missed one by an hour so the guides told me. Although justly famous for its enormous quantity of engravings, some paintings (mostly of people painted in red ochre) can also be seen: it's a rare occurrence to find both at the same site. Local guides are employed to take visitors to see the art, the longest trip was an hour, so I chose that - much to my guide's dismay as I had arrived at midday and yes, the sun was hot, but I was not to be dissuaded. Although not the best time for viewing the art, I enjoyed my visit enormously. Whole sandstone rock faces, some upright and some flat, are engraved with a huge variety of animals (although giraffes predominate), their spoor (including human spoor), cupules and geometric patterns such as lines and circles. Two techniques of engraving were employed: pecking and fine line engraving.

Originally the art was interpreted as a way of teaching children or young hunters about different animals and their tracks. Interpretations by current day researchers, such as David Lewis-Williams, use ethnographical research, particularly the work in the 1870s by the German linguist Wilhelm Bleek and his sister-in-law, Lucy Lloyd, with the /Xam 'Bushman' community in South Africa. They translated and recorded the oral traditions of the /Xam and their work is now an important source of understanding of a now lost society.

Rock Art in Namibia



'Repair' to vandalised panel, Twyfelfontein. Photo: S. Gibson

The animal spoor are now interpreted as representing shamanistic transformation into the animal, in order to absorb its potency. The /Xam people believed that one of the places the Spirit World was located was behind rock. The act of engraving may be better understood as intended not to put an image onto the rock, but to bring out a Spirit World animal from behind the rock. The geometric petroglyphs are believed to be from the later Khoekhoen people who moved into Southern Africa 2000 years ago. Their meaning is not clear but it has been suggested that they may be intending to display personal and group identity rather than showing the way to water sources.



Geometric engravings, Twyfelfontein

Photo: S. Gibson

For my last mini-trip in Namibia, I visited the Brandberg mountain, most famous for the 'White Lady' painting. Here Daureb mountain guides offer a choice of tours including geology tours as well as rock art tours. They offered a visit to see only the White Lady and a longer Rock Art trail which, needless to say, is the one I chose.

A guide here, as at Twyfelfontein, is really essential as you can easily walk past the art without noticing it. The Brandberg has lots of art, some of it in more inaccessible shelters higher up the mountain, but the walks the guides take you on are manageable, even on a hot day.

The White Lady is about a 45 minute walk from the car park and there is now a board walk path for a short distance, close to the shelter. They have replaced the metal gates with railings so you get a much better view. Under the shelter they've placed small pebbles to stop the dust formed when people walk close to the paintings from rising and obscuring the paintings. In other shelters, I saw lots more paintings consisting of people and animals, many in much better condition than the 'White Lady'.

I would have liked longer to study the art at Twyfelfontein and at the Brandberg, but the guided tours do ensure that the art is protected from vandals. The guides at Twyfelfontein and the Brandberg do a good job on the whole, although their interpretations are out of date. I was a bit concerned at the Brandberg by my guide pointing his walking stick at a painting and actually touching it; though I suppose this is marginally better than hundreds of hands or worse still chisels.

My last site of rock art in Namibia was on a private farm near Witvlei in the Omaheke Region where I lived. I went along with another volunteer who'd been invited by the farmer to see the art. The art was in the form of engravings on flat boulders on his farm. Light conditions for viewing and photography were poor, as it was very bright, but we could make out various animals and their spoor, including human spoor. I was concerned about the fact that the farmer said he'd seen deterioration to the art during his lifetime, in that some of the rock had sheered off. I wasn't altogether surprised as his dogs, with their big claws, were allowed to run all over the art, and cattle would also be likely to walk over it, as there was no fence. Although Phillip's Cave was on a private farm, it was on the mountain, so it had natural protection, plus the art was mainly on the cave walls. However, much of the art in the Omaheke region will be on private cattle farms like this one. It would be good to see the art better protected for the future.

There was only one failure in my attempts to visit rock art sites in Namibia. I'd read that there was a very rich rock engraving site at Piet Alberts Kopjie near Kamanjab. I knew it must be on a private farm, but which one? In the end I gave up, it reminded me of searching, sometimes fruitlessly, for the notoriously unmarked archaeological sites in Brittany. Oh well, maybe next time...

Rock Art in Namibia



The White Elephant, Philip's Cave, Erongo

Photo: s. Gibson

Photographs:

If you would like to see some of my rock art photos you can find them under 'Twyfelfontein Rock Art', 'Phillips Cave', 'Brandberg' and 'Rock Art at Witvlei' at my photo website:

<http://susan-gibson.fotopic.net>

(Click on photos to enlarge them).

Further reading:

Lewis-Williams, J. D. & T. Dowson, 2000. *Images of Power: Understanding San Rock Art*, Struick Publishers (Pty) Ltd.

Lewis-Williams, J.D. (Ed.) 2002, *Stories that float from afar: Ancestral Folklore of the San of Southern Africa*. David Philip Publishers.

Website References

A Survey into the Relationship between Animal Engravings and Cupules, Maarten van Hoek, including the Site Report on Twyfelfontein by Sven Ouzman, published on the Bradshaw Foundation website: <http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/> under 'Twyfelfontein, Namibia'

Rock Art Exhibition at the National Museum of Namibia: published on the museum's website: <http://196.20.25.140/exhib/rockart/index.html>

Southern African Rock-Art Sites, Janette Deacon, 2002, published on the website: <http://www.icomos.org/studies/sarockart.htm>

Susan Gibson, June 2005

(The quality of reproduction of the photos suffers from the editor's ancient computer system and the fact that newsletter is photocopied, rather than printed. It is certainly not due to Sue's photography. Editor)

From the Bookshelf

As you are aware, ERAS members can obtain a reader's ticket for the Brynmor Jones Library at the University of Hull. This ticket allows access to the book and journal collections, although you cannot take books out. To get your reader's ticket, go to the Library reception desk and say you are a member of the East Riding Archaeology Society and would like to have a reader's ticket. You might have to show your ERAS membership card.

JOURNAL REVIEW

Landscape History

(Library catalogue q DA 90 L26)

Landscape History is the international refereed journal of the Society for Landscape Studies. It offers a common meeting-ground for all concerned with the material and cultural evaluation of human use of the land. The Society for Landscape Studies was founded in 1979 with the aim of advancing public education by promoting the study of the landscape in all its aspects. As well as publishing Landscape History, the Society also organises fieldtrips and conferences. The journal usually contains a wide range of articles as can be seen from the list given below, and in the past has included a range of important articles about sites in the East Riding such as B. English & K. Miller 'The deserted village of Eske, East Yorkshire' in Volume 13 and C. Hayfield 'Wawne, East Riding of Yorkshire: a case study in settlement morphology' in Volume 6. Landscape History takes the multi-disciplinary approach of landscape studies so you may find articles on archaeology, placename studies, historical research, historical geography.... and the list goes on. The journal is published yearly, and although only includes a small number of articles, they are usually all of a very high standard. Listed below are the contents of the most recent volume.

Volume 26 (2004)

Castle Studies and the 'Landscape' agenda.

(O. H. Creighton and R. A. Higham)

Planning English medieval 'street towns': the Hertfordshire evidence.

(Terry R. Slater)

Ravensdale Park, Derbyshire, and medieval deer coursing.

(Christopher Taylor)

A classification of ridge and furrow by an analysis of cross-profiles.

(Stephen Upex)

Why hedge dating doesn't work.

(Steve Cousins)

Two late nineteenth-century military earthworks on Ash Ranges, near Aldershot, Surrey. (Judie English)

NEW TO THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Shopland, N. 2005. Archaeological Finds: a guide to identification

(Library Catalogue CC 75 S5)

Back again to another book in the Tempus range. The aim of this book is to provide, in one place, a guide to the task of looking after and identifying finds. In this simple task, to cut down the number of books anyone identifying archaeological finds has to browse through, it achieves its aim, but the scope of the subject does mean that this book really only offers a very superficial introduction to the subject. It provides detailed information on some subjects such as the specific types of Samian ware, but very little information on any glass finds from before 1660. The scope of a book covering finds from the earliest periods of prehistory, up until relatively recent times is way too ambitious. The author does admit that the selection of finds chosen to appear in the book has been limited to those types that are most often found on archaeological sites, but it is often those items which are rarely found that are the ones that are difficult to identify.

The book is divided into five sections. The first looks at cleaning, drying and storing finds. The second section looks at the different types of materials, and is followed by a section devoted to flint, a section on pottery and the final section on domestic materials. This last section is really a free-for all where any find that isn't pottery or flint is put, so there are ceramic building materials, brooches, shoes, spindle whorls etc etc. The book is suitably illustrated throughout but is really too superficial. The important contextual information that is found in the more specialised finds books is missing. While this book may be useful for the very basic initial identification of a find (as long as it appears in the book) anyone wishing to fully understand the find, its context, purpose and date, will have to find a much more detailed account elsewhere. As the author has stated, there is no single, good book to go to, and maybe there is a need for a range of more concise guides, but this is not it.

ELECTRONIC REVIEW

The British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography
www.biab.ac.uk

Following on from last time, we continue to look at some of the online resources for archaeological research and instead of books this time, we look at a useful site to use when you are trying to track down where information has been published. This database includes over 200,000 items published since 1940 and some references back to

1695. The database is updated twice a year and is now free to use.

The search menu allows you to search using an author's name, a title or keywords. You are warned not to type something too general such as 'Roman' as there will be too many entries found but if you can be more specific, an entry such as 'Roman Salt' returns a list of 96 references to Roman Salt-working. The search is not just undertaken on words in the titles of articles, but is undertaken on a number of keywords that have been added to the system. Next to the list of relevant articles, you will find access to a more detailed record which will give you publisher information and a summary of the content of the book or article. This service is very useful if you have heard of a site, but want to know where you can find more information about the excavations carried out there, or if you have a particular pet subject you are researching and want to find as many references as possible.

*Helen Fenwick,
Lecturer in Archaeology,
Department of History, University of Hull*



Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RX

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- ♦ **Regional and local History**
- ♦ **British Maritime History (based at Blaydes House)**

Contact: Dr. John Walker, Tel: 01482 465490
email: J.Walker@hull.ac.uk

Courses start in September 2005

Time Team Big Roman Dig At Hull & E. Riding Museum

Time Team will be telling the story of Britain's Roman history this year, through seven days of live television. Taking place from the 2nd - 9th July, the programmes will explore what it was like to live under Roman rule from the first to fourth centuries AD. As well as excavating at a villa site near Exeter, they will be visiting nine other important Roman sites in the UK, including forts, towns and even mines! These sites are all under excavation by professional archaeologists with the help of their local communities.

Time Team is encouraging the public all over the UK to propose their own Roman related activities which will run during the week of programmes. Hull Museums is affiliated to the Big Roman Dig and is offering guided gallery tours of the Roman mosaics in the Hull and East Riding Museum on Saturday 2nd July and Saturday 9th July at 2pm and 3pm. In addition there will be an opportunity to wash tesserae from Roman mosaics and put together squares of mosaic.

There is also a fun activity for families with younger children in which visitors can create their own mosaic scene using stick-on coloured paper squares. We will be giving away Time Team badges and stickers whilst stocks last! The Hull and East Riding Museum is open 10am until 4.45pm each Saturday and visitors are welcome to pop in and join the activities.
Free admission.

*Bryan Sitch
Keeper of Archaeology
Hull Museums and Art Gallery*



Charioteer Mosaic from Rudston. (Hull & E.R. Museum)

Future Events at Hull and East Riding Museum

Heritage Open Days

8th-11th September 2005

'Heritage Open Days' celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Every year on four days in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors, ranging from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples.

It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture. Free of charge and literally on people's doorstep, Heritage Open Days is an event for everyone, whatever their background, age and ability. The 2005 event will run from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 September.

Co-ordinated nationally by the Civic Trust in partnership with English Heritage, Heritage Open Days attract some 800,000 visitors every year, and makes this one of England's largest voluntary cultural events.

The Hull and East Riding Museum is supporting Heritage Open Days by offering tours of the store and the displays. This is an opportunity to meet the staff, see behind the scenes at the Hull and East Riding Museum and explore the store and the galleries. Tours at 11am and 2pm Saturday 10th September 2005. Free admission but numbers are limited to 15 on each tour.

Family Learning Week

Saturday 8th - Sunday 16th October.

In addition we will be working with colleagues from the education department to celebrate Family Learning Week (formerly Family Learning Weekend). This is a national awareness campaign that raises awareness of the importance and scope of family learning. It aims to strengthen communities and to create more opportunities for the family to learn together during events that take place.

The Big Draw

Weds 12th October- Weds 19th October

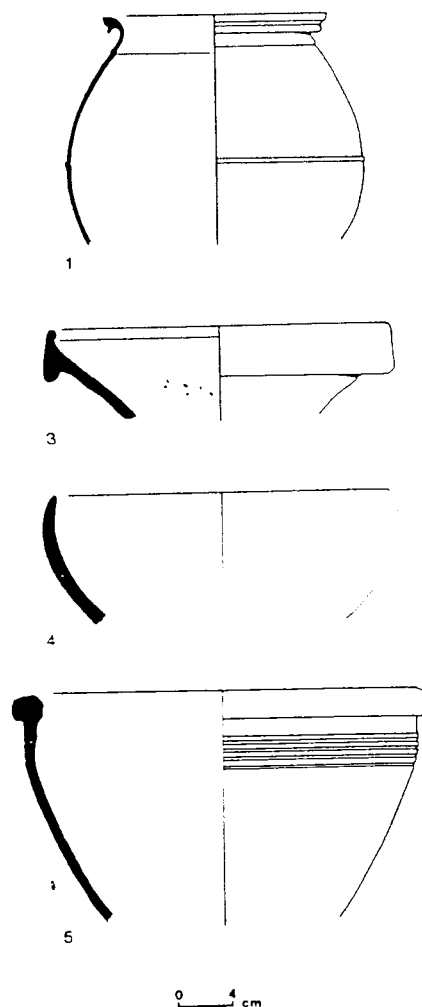
Preparations for the sixth Big Draw are underway. 'Drawing Power' has a simple aim - to get everyone drawing. The Campaign for Drawing was initiated in 2000 by The Guild of St George, a small charity founded by John Ruskin, the great Victorian artist, writer and visionary. Ruskin saw drawing as the foundation of visual thought. His mission was not to teach people how to draw, but how to see.

Over 1000 events across the UK each October promote drawing's power to make us see, think, invent, act and enjoy. The main focus of this sixth Big Draw will be on Saturday 15th October.

Archaeological drawing workshops

As part of the Big Draw, staff at the Hull and East Riding Museum will be organising two workshops on the archaeological drawing of pottery at 10am and 2pm on Saturday 15th October. Admission is free but places are limited to 15 on each workshop. Although some materials will be available on the day, participants are requested to bring their own pens and small paint brushes and Indian ink if possible.

Bryan Stich
Keeper of Archaeology
Hull Museums and Art Gallery



Romano-British Pottery from Faxfleet.

Bryan Stich

Events for National Archaeology Week

Saturday 23rd July

2.00-4.00pm, Streetlife Museum, High Street

Medieval Travel

A talk by Keeper of Archaeology Bryan Sitch. - A look at how people travelled on pilgrimage, on crusade, on business and on some seriously challenging diplomatic missions in the Middle Ages. Come and find out about some truly amazing journeys.

Free admission but maximum of 40 people so please book in advance

(tel.01482 613902/613927).

Saturday 16th and Sunday. 17th July

11am till 4pm

"That's Entertainment"

A weekend in the Museums Quarter, celebrating entertainment and amusements in Hull organised by the Museums social history staff including fire eating, face painting, puppet workshops and medieval music. As part of this weekend of fun, staff from Hull and East Riding Museum will be offering historical games such as Nine Men's Morris for members of the public to play.

Free admission.

REGIONAL EVENTS

At Pockerly Manor, **Beamish Open Air Museum**, Co Durham, July 16th-17th you can try making candles, corn dollies, bread and garden structures, have a guided tour of the Georgian landscape or try on historic costumes. For details email catherineburns@beamish.org.uk

At **Sewerby Hall Museum**, E.Yorks, 2.30pm Fri. July 22nd, Dave Marchant will talk about the archaeology collections of the East Riding Museum Service.

Bayle Museum, Bridlington. Open Sun 17th July, 11am -4pm. View the 12th century monastic gate, family quiz, brass rubbing. Details - bayle.museum@btinternet.com

At **N. Lincs Museum, Scunthorpe**, see behind the scenes and do mosaic making, brass rubbing, pottery ID etc. Sat 16th July, 11am-3pm. Tel.01724 843533 or email kevin.leahy@northlincs.gov.uk

Gainsborough Old Hall, Lincs, is the venue for a 'dig' for 7-11 year olds. Sat. 23 July 1.30pm-3.30pm Bookings only. Tel 01427 612669 or email gainsborougholdhall@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lincoln Branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club will be launching a new programme of events and activities. 16th-17th July 10am-12 noon and 2pm-4pm. Tel. 01522 550990 or email

Kathy.Holland@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Levisham Moor, N. Yorks. A guided walk looking at archaeological remains. Sun 17th July 1pm - 4pm.

Also, longer walk starts at 10.30am

Details, Tel. Sue Schulze, NY Moors National Park, 01439 772738

Levisham Village- a walk with local historians including display of documents, maps, photos. Sun 17th July. 10.30am - 12.30pm. Details as above.

Craven Museum, Skipton Drop-in family activity day, on Medieval Skipton, 16th July- 10.30am -12.30pm and 1pm-4pm. details museum@cravendc.gov.uk

English Heritage is organising an archaeology day at **Rievaulx Abbey** on 17th July, 11am - 5pm. £5/£4/£3 Displays, demonstrations of traditional and hi-tech archaeology, heritage artisans and crafts, Details from Jonathon Hogan, 01439 798225 or email jonathon.hogan@english-heritage.org.uk

Also at **Rievaulx**, 16th and 17th July, 11am - 5pm. See how Medieval pewter pilgrim badges were made. £4/£3/£2. Details as above

Murton Park, Murton Lane, York. Living History event, at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming. Explore a Roman port, a Viking village and a Tudor house. July 16th, 10am - 4pm.

Details- Helen Toolan, 01904 489966 or email amanda@murtonpark.co.uk

Creswell Crags Museum & Education Centre, Welbeck, Nottinghamshire. 16th & 17th July, 10.3am - 4.30pm. Guided tours of the gorge. Flint knapping demonstrations, etc.

Details - Elanor Johnson, 01909 720378 or email info@creswell-crags.org.uk

Sealed Knot Spectacular- living history and battle re-enactments of the civil war at **Oakwell Hall, Birstall, near Batley**. July 23rd - 24th. 11am -4pm. £2.50/£1 Details Eric Brown 01924 326240 or email eric.brown@kirklees.gov.uk

Curious Creatures. **St John the Evangelist Church, New Brigate, Leeds**. A workshop for 5-12 year olds, looking at carvings in the oldest church in Leeds and recreating them in clay, to take home. July 23rd 11am -12.45 and 1.45 - 3.15pm Details Julian Avins 0113 2441689 or www.visitchurches.org.uk

Odds and Ends

Barnhouse, Orkney Publication

Orkney enthusiasts will be interested to know that the Neolithic settlement site at Barnhouse, close to Harray Loch has finally been published. The Barnhouse excavation, between 1986 and 1993 was the largest investigation of a Neolithic settlement in northern Britain, since Skara Brae in the 1920s. It provides an ideal opportunity to look at the architecture, ritual and social elements of Neolithic life, excavated under modern conditions. The smaller scale work at Maeshowe and at the Odin Stone, near the Standing Stones of Stenness are also covered in the volume, shedding new light on several aspects of these monuments, their development and what they may have been used for.

On the recent ERAS visit, the Orkney archaeologist Julie Gibson gave us an excellent site tour of Barnhouse (as well as Minehow). If anyone is interested in the publication, details are given below.

Richards, C. (Ed) 2005, *Dwelling among the Monuments: The Neolithic village of Barnhouse, Maeshowe passage grave and surrounding monuments at Stenness, Orkney*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.

Quarrying Application at Thornborough Henges

Members will recall from the last newsletter, that ERAS made a donation to the fund for fighting against further quarrying of the landscape surrounding the henges. Our Chairman Paul Brayford has sent a letter pointing out the inadequacies of the latest archaeological assessment and protesting against the development. A lawyer specialising in European environmental law has been engaged by the campaigning organisation to help fight plans for further quarrying.

Orkney Burnt Mound - Sauna or Cookhouse?

The following is adapted from an article by Sigurd Towrie in the latest newsletter of the *Friends of Orkney Archaeological Trust* (FOAT).

Hurricane force winds and high tides in January 2005, resulted in the emergency excavation of what was thought to be a burial mound at Meur, on the north-eastern tip of Sanday. The large central 'cist' was found to have been inserted deeply into a clay base, but did not contain any remains. It is now looking more likely to be a Bronze Age burnt mound, usually associated with heating water.

Burnt mounds, typical of Bronze Age Orkney (1800-600BC) are usually heaps of blackened earth found near a fresh water source, with heated stones, ash, and sometimes, paved areas with a hearth and stone-lined pit. At Meur there was a more complex water system, incorpo-

rating a stone tank, cistern, overflow and paved area. The lack of domestic remains has prompted recent hypotheses that similar sites are the remains of saunas and the possibility of ritual, religious or ceremonial activity is raised. Whatever the purpose, as the heated stones cooled, cracked and were discarded, they built up into distinctive mounds. The site was not excavated to destruction, but will remain visible for the public to view, with information provided, until it is claimed by the elements.

(Ed: The habit of taking a sauna, one might well view as a ritual, but why it should have 'religious or ceremonial' significance is unclear. However, this is a remarkable discovery). NB. By the end of 2005, it should be possible to access Orkney's SMR via the web.

Sudan: Ancient Treasures Exhibition

This major archaeological exhibition has been shown to great acclaim at the British Museum and is now at Bowes Museum, Co. Durham until Oct 30th, when it leaves the country to tour Europe. It is certainly worth a visit and there is a lot more to see in the area.

The Conference Venue of your Dreams!

CBA's *British Archaeology* magazine gives the Caribbean island of Nevis as the venue for the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology's 2005 conference, on the subject of the historical archaeology of the colonial or shared landscapes of the Caribbean. Fab climate, amazing beaches, crumbling colonial grandeur and unspoilt local atmosphere. Nice work if you can get someone to pay for you to attend! Please can I go too?

Ratner Rings at Ferrybridge!

Sonia O'Connor, speaking at a conference at Bradford University on recent chariot burials, cast new light on a much discussed topic. Detailed study of the Ferrybridge artefacts has shown that in this particular burial, appearance was all. The chunky and solid looking bronze terret rings, were actually hollow. The rings, each made in two halves, like a ring-doughnut sliced horizontally, were filled only with silt, of local origin, and would not have been functional. This discovery has led to the assumption that if there was indeed a funeral procession with horses drawing the chariot, it would have been very sedate and the horses were likely to have been led rather than driven.

So, were the family duped by an unscrupulous manufacturer, or was it, like today's use of plastic 'brass' coffin handles, an acceptable way of continuing an outmoded and expensive tradition? A lot more enlightening details have come from the work of Sonia O'Connor's team at Bradford and a fuller article will hopefully appear in the next newsletter.

Editor

Dates for your Diary

- 2 & 9 July** Time Team Roman Big Dig events at Hull & E. Riding Museum
- Thur 14 July** Start of Arram excavation for general volunteers
- Sat 16 July** Start of National Archaeology Week
- Sun 24 July** Open Day at Arram in conjunction with National Archaeology Day
- Thur 28 July** Wharram Percy: life in a medieval village. Lecture organised by Y. Wolds Heritage Trust.
7.30pm Malton Museum. £4.50 incl. refreshments and special exhibition viewing.
Tickets/details M. Cowell 01377 256358. email margaretcowell@kingsmill.karoo.co.uk
- Thur 1 Sept** CBA Conference. Archaeology and Education. Covering all sectors, ages and aspects. 1st - 4th Sept, St Johns College York. Details - Don Henson, CBA St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York. YO30 7BZ
email education@britarch.ac.uk
- Wed 21 Sept** ERAS reports meeting. A round-up of new work in the region
- Wed 19 Oct** ERAS lecture. Prof. Mike Parker-Pearson. Bronze Age Mummies
- Sat 12 Nov** Mortimer 2005 Celebration. Dayschool, Hull University. Speakers include Richard Bradley and Dominic Powlesland. Oxbow and Antiquarian bookstalls. Lunch and coach visit to Hull & E. Riding museum. Further details from Terry Manby, 01430 873147
- Wed 16 Nov** ERAS lecture. Tim Taylor. Title to be confirmed
- Wed 21 Dec** ERAS lecture. Ed Dennison. Recent work at Harewood Castle.
- Wed 18 Jan** ERAS lecture To be confirmed
- Wed 15 Feb** ERAS lecture To be confirmed
- Wed 15 Mar** ERAS lecture. Chris Fenton-Thomas. Excavating a multi-period site at Melton, E. Yorks.
- Wed 19 April** 7.0pm AGM, followed at 7.30pm by
ERAS lecture. Old Celts, New Celts: recent controversies. Prof. John John Collis.

ERAS lectures, unless otherwise stated, are held in Room S1, Wilberforce Building, Hull University, at 7.30pm. Members free, visitors £1.

In the autumn and winter, Field Study meetings are at 7.30pm upstairs at the Friends Meeting House, Percy St, off Albion St, Hull, on the first Wednesday of each month. No commitment is necessary, just come and help to plan and carry out projects etc. During the excavation season ie in July August and September, please check with Fiona, Tel. 01964 550831 or Kate 01482 445232, before turning up at Percy Street, as there will be plenty to do at Arram and we will probably be working there on Wednesday evenings

Please note, you will only get your new, free Volume 11 if you have paid up for 2005

I would like to join ERAS or renew my membership for 2005 (delete as applicable)	
Name(s).....	Address.....
I enclose a cheque payable to ERAS for £..... (£5 *fulltime student, £15 ordinary member, £20 family)	
Send to the treasurer, Lesley Jackson, 24 St Stephens Close Willerby , E. Yorks. HU10 6DG	
* Students please give institution, course & year	