

# ERAS news

---

No. 20

July 1985

---

The story so far Not entirely dwelling on the past (although nothing would be better fitted for an archaeological society!), we begin as promised with some musings on ERAS which started life a quarter of a century ago.

The East Riding Archaeological Society had its beginnings in the autumn of 1960 with a series of six public lectures entitled "Archaeology: Digging up the Past" (start to tremble if you attended them!). They were organised by the Department of Adult Education, University of Hull, and Kingston upon Hull Museums and were held in the Victoria Galleries above the City Hall. Perhaps few need reminding that it was the drive and enthusiasm of John Bartlett, the newly arrived Director of the Museum, who was the catalyst that brought the Society into existence and stimulated so much interest in the subject. For there were a number of others already immersed in archaeology at that time, but one feels a vital spark was lacking. In many ways indeed the foundation of ERAS was a resurrection and revitalisation of a role previously performed by the long defunct East Riding Antiquarian Society, through whose Transactions some of the best local archaeological and historical researches had been published.

Subscription to the series of lectures which were held in September and October was five shillings (O.K. you young ones, 25p), or two shillings

---

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(10p) if you were a student, value for money if ever there was any given the cavalcade of archaeological celebrities appearing weekly. Glyn Daniel (The Antiquity and Evolution of Man); Dr. Kathleen Kenyon (Excavations at Jericho); Prof. F.F. Bruce (The Dead Sea Scrolls); Dr. J.K.S. St. Joseph (Air Photography and Archaeology); Prof. Ian Richmond (A Task Force of the Roman Invasion at Hod Hill, Dorset); and Prof. Maurice Beresford (The Deserted Medieval Village of Wharram Percy). The meetings were chaired by Fred Brooks, Reader in Medieval History, University of Hull, who was to become the Society's first Chairman too, elected to that office at the last of the meetings on 26th October which became in fact the inaugural meeting of ERAS.

The first meeting of the Society proper, at which the Constitution was formally adopted, took place on 9th January 1961. The speaker for that evening was John Wachter, his subject the Roman Fort and Town at Brough on Humber. The cracking pace of the weekly meetings that had set the wheels in motion, publically at least, relaxed now, and February, March and April saw lectures by Ted Wright on the Ferriby Boats, Bill Varley on Castle Hill Almondbury, and Peter Wenham on Roman York. ERAS was up and running, and for the princely sum of one guinea (£1.05), worth an awful lot more than £5 is today, or 10s.6d. (52½p) for associates and students, the Society was open to everyone who was interested in the archaeology of the Riding in particular or just archaeology in general.

Hull Museums in High Street was very much the G.U.Q. of the Society with John Bartlett as its long-serving Hon. Secretary from the very beginning. Happily, the Museum contact is still firmly maintained today, and ERAS without Hull Museum support would be difficult to imagine. But there were well defined links with nearby places of higher learning too. Besides the Chairman, there was Bill Varley, Ken MacMahon, and Hull Univers-

ity's Professor of Classics, one A.F. Norman, on that first Committee. Frank Norman, we are very pleased to say, is ERAS's newly elected Chairman in our Silver Jubilee year - not as he likes to jokingly infer as a further demonstration of the Society's digging capabilities, but as a tangible and happy link with the Society's origins 25 years ago!

The real digging was soon to follow. In 1961 members had the opportunity to excavate every month from March to August: there was Melton quarry excavated by John Bartlett, the site that grew into Rodney Mackey's Romano-British villa excavation; Littlethorpe near Rudston, again led by John Bartlett, to resolve the date of pit and ring ditches recognised from the air; Giants Hill Swine and Lake Dwellings at Barmston, both under Bill Varley's direction; Wharram Percy was open to members too by application; and Winthorpe, Lockington, where Geoffrey Lloyd followed up his Romano-British kiln work with excavations of Iron Age and medieval date. And the digging went on... In 1962 there was work at Grassdale Park, Brough and at Lockington again, with invitations to members to participate at Wharram, East Heslerton Long Barrow and Drax. In 1963 there was fieldwork on Beverley Westwood, excavations at Rudston, a training dig at the Burrs, Brough, and Ferriby Boat 3 was pulled out of the Humber foreshore. 1964 saw digging at Maidens Grave Henge, Burton Fleming, and the first excavation work in Hull's Old Town at Humber Street was in search of the town defences. Ian Stead invited help for work at Winteringham, Winterton and Rudston in 1964, and Rod Mackey was at it again at Maidens Grave and also excavating a barrow at Easington. Wharram and Woodhall Manor, Beverley, were also open to members. In 1966 the Humber foreshore beckoned again with work at Weighton Lock, Faxfleet, which was followed up in 1967 along with excavations at Riplingham, and perhaps most celebrated and beloved of all 1967 was the start of the barrow dig at Littlewood Farm, Walkington.

A second season at Walkington in 1968 carried the Society on, and Woodhall Manor was also worked again by Bill Varley, and one J.P. Whitwell, then of Lincoln Museum, advertised for experienced help on a Middle Saxon site at Normanby le Wold. In 1969 a third season at Walkington saw the job off, and a second go at Hull's Old Town defences in North Walls Road introduced a raw recruit called Armstrong to the Society and created lots of enthusiasm for work in the town. In 1970, the year the subs were increased to £1.50, there was a venture into industrial archaeology with Derek Brooks' Belle Vue Pottery excavation in Hull, as well as Romano-British work at Hasholme Hall, the scene of more recent excitement, a mesolithic site at Howe Hill, Everingham, and helping hands to the M.O.W.'s Hull Castle dig. Rod Mackey's several seasons at the Welton Wold villa site began in 1971, Hasholme Hall continued, and two tenements in High Street, Hull were excavated by John Bartlett. Things took a turn in 1972 with the start of a sustained professional archaeological input. An unbroken run of medieval urban excavations in Hull began now for the next six years, initially with good support from ERAS, but with the loss of John Bartlett to Sheffield Museums some of the verve was lost too and the Society had a quiet spell, largely staying indoors. The old spirit was recaptured somewhat in 1977 (the year the subs went up to £2.50 - surely just a coincidence?!) when the first of two consecutive seasons at Cave Road, Brough began. There was Society involvement too in Lurk Lane, Beverley to begin with in 1979, and the Hall Garth bridge site in 1980 attracted Society support too. 1980 was an important year in that it saw the formation of the Field Study Group, that potent little force, and a rekindling of ERAS initiative in the field with regular support for a site in Welton Road, Brough, run without professional involvement. Fieldwalking at Hasholme and Bursca led by Peter Halkon stimulated the need for more excavation in the area which have taken place

since in 1983 and 1984. Support was maintained for excavations in Beverley at Dyer Lane (1982) and Eastgate (1984). The 1983 Society dig at The moated site at Arnold began with survey in 1982 and has continued this year. Rescue work at the Brantingham villa site in 1983 and help on the 1984 chariot burial site at Wetwang Slack has shown the Society capable of rapid and effective responses to rescue threats, and Dave Crowther's Museum Notes in recent issues of ERAS News amply confirm the Society's continuing role in the field and the maintenance of a sound tradition which will never die so long as there are members dedicated to archaeology and determined to give their energies and enthusiasm to it.

Of course behind all this, excursions, publications, lectures and dinners have continued too over the years and regular bulletins issued by the Hon. Secretaries of the Society have been the forerunners of the present newsletter format, which came into being in May 1979, and which serve to chronicle the Society's history. Countless other unrecorded events, personalities and diversions must have coloured the tableau these twenty-five years past. This is merely the sketchiest of reviews. There are undoubtedly many an unsung hero or heroine, and just as certainly many others too, better qualified than this writer to speak for the Society's fun, games and achievements; we may hear from them yet. In the meantime, here's to the next twenty-five years, and perhaps the next review in 2010 AD!!

Arnold II: The search continues During April of this year work resumed on the Arnold moated site near Long Riston. The excavation is being carried out by members of the ERAS Field Study Group. It is hoped that further excavation will yield more information about the medieval and Iron Age topography of the site. To this end a series of trenches have been dug at various points across the site and two small areas have been opened out.

# ARNOLD TA 126418

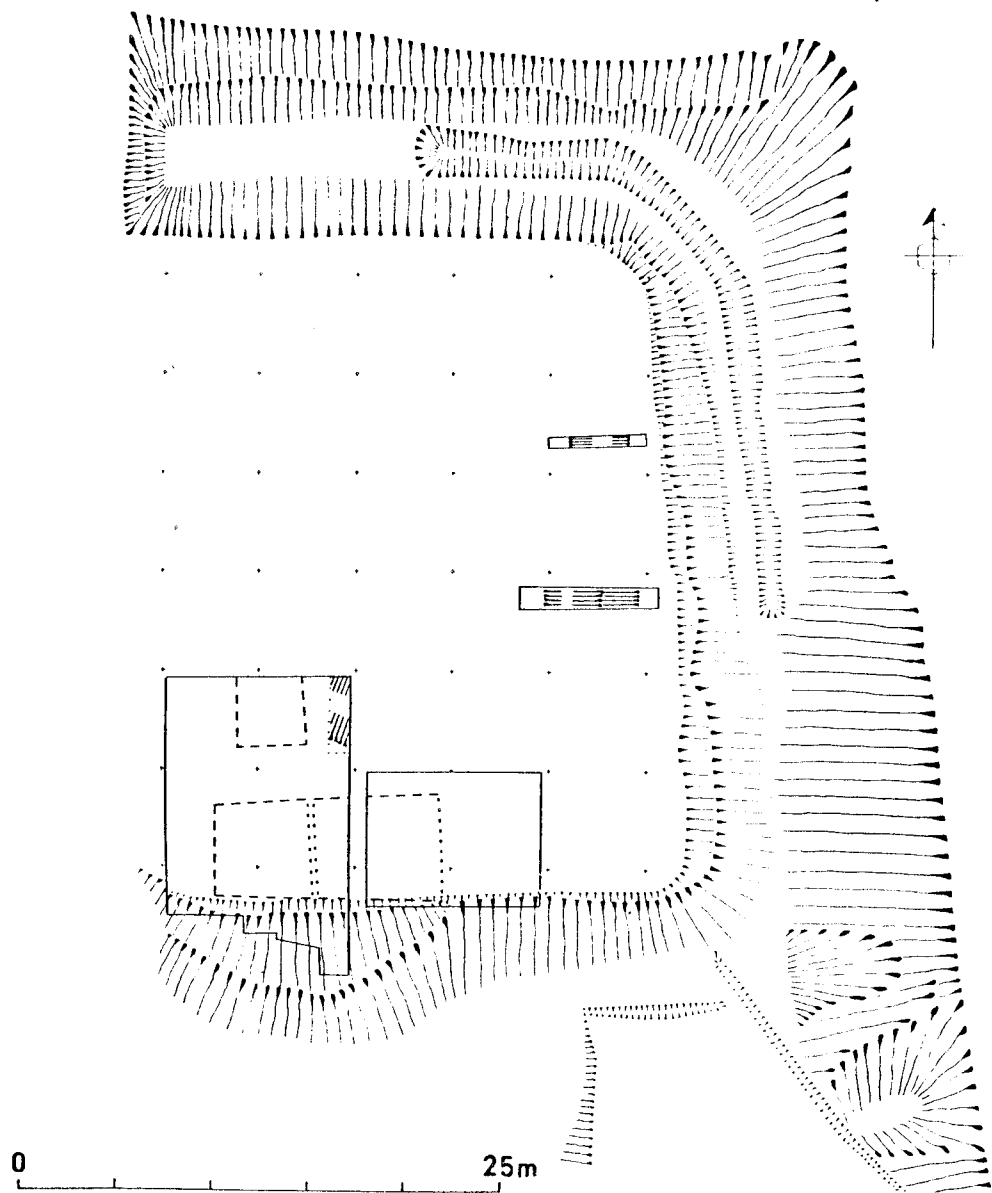


Fig. 1 Arnold moat with 1983 excavations shown.

Work is currently concentrating on a small area in the north-west corner of the moated platform. Excavations here have revealed several pits, ditches and gullies at a very shallow depth, just below the topsoil. With the exception of one, the pits have proved very unproductive as regards dating evidence. However, the one exception contained several large sherds of Iron Age pottery. A considerable quantity of Iron Age pottery has also been recovered from two ditches nearby. Both ditches run in an east-west direction, the southernmost of which is slightly curved and still currently under excavation.

Evidence of medieval structural remains contemporary with the moat itself has again remained elusive so far, but the most substantial feature excavated to date which is clearly related to the moated landscape is a cobbled surface in the south-east corner of the site. This appears to be of 17th or 18th century date and contemporary with two structures excavated in 1983 (fig. 1). This last period of occupation seems to have been confined to the southern half of the moated platform only. The only small find made this year of any note has been a 15th/16th century coin or jetton of Louis XII of France, 1498-1515 AD.

Phil Hampel

### Lecture summary

20th March - The Iron Age Farm. Peter Reynolds

The experimental Iron Age farm at Butser, Hampshire, began as a single-handed venture thirteen years ago. Today it is staffed by thirty people recruited through the agency of the Manpower Services Commission. The project was first proposed as an open air laboratory to deal with the pre-Roman period serving as a practical test bed for hypotheses emerging from archaeological work. Financial aid was sought and obtained to begin the work in 1969, land at Little Butser

was acquired by the County Council, and Dr. Peter Reynolds was engaged as concept director.

Conventionally, archaeological information is compiled by excavators from prime site data. From this hypotheses are formulated — the interpretation of the data. The Butser project exists to test these interpretations and in so doing produces new data — experimental data. The experimental data can then be compared with the interpretations drawn from the prime data, which in 95% of cases can be proved to have been wrong! A second hypothesis is therefore proposed and the cycle continues. The importance of the prime site data cannot be stressed too highly; it is essential to be able to return to it for re-examination.

The reconstruction of houses is the most visual aspect of the project, but this only represents 5% of the work. In experimental work circular structures are easier to reconstruct than rectangular ones, and three types of this form were illustrated.

Pimperne Down House: is essentially a cone structure. Walls five feet high were found to work, and principal rafters resting outside the wall were also found to work, and this fits well with the excavated data. At 45 feet diameter, 1600 sq.ft. of space is enclosed. The clay daub of the walls, only one part of the whole structural effort, amounts to ten metric tonnes and requires a lot of people to prepare and apply. The free span of the roof is 32 feet and requires 11 tonnes of timber and 5 tonnes of thatch (dry weights). This is with only a six inch thatch, whereas a fifteen inch covering is actually necessary to do the job properly, so these are conservative weights. Over 200 trees were required for the building, which demonstrates that Iron Age man needed managed timber not wild for building purposes. Woodland management, it is argued, is of very ancient origin.

Moel y Gaer House: is a smaller structure. Two

cattle are housed in it over a six month winter and a phosphate count is measured.

Maiden Castle House: has been monitored over twelve years and it remains serviceable. The effect of the structure on the environment, and the reverse, is examined. Experience shows that the pitch of a thatched roof must be 45° or steeper, otherwise it becomes sodden and collapses. Tremendous resources are required to build stone houses compared with timber constructions. For a modest round house of stone 52 tonnes of limestone is needed. It is clear from the experiments conducted that what are often termed Iron Age "huts" probably had a life span of 150-200 years.

The project aims to understand the Iron Age economy. The plants, their cycles, storage needs and the whole milieu of Iron Age life is under investigation. Historical sources refer to grain, leather and hunting dogs as Britain's principal resources in the period. It is suggested that Britain could have been the breadbasket of Europe in the Iron Age. There is little evidence from the island of cultivating implements, but Scandinavian rock carvings give us a picture of the methods employed. Sodbuster and seed furrow ploughs are depicted. In North Italy sodbuster ploughs and men wielding hoes are represented. An ard from Denmark has been reconstructed and tested, pulled by Dexter cattle, the closest modern breed parallel to the Celtic shorthorn which by careful selection was bred from the larger wild beast. The plough and cattle together are found to produce good tilths and do not damage the subsoil. The sodbuster on the other hand does scar the subsoil.

The evidence of prehistoric cereal grain and its pollen is used to replicate prehistoric crops. Spelt wheat and emmer wheat are excellent varieties being stable plants. They are being cultivated and thoroughly studied at Butser in Spring and Autumn sown fields. The following observations are made: Common cleavers contamin-

ate autumn sown crops; carbonised seed evidence from excavations might be indicative of horticulture close in around the houses; *Chenopodium album* (Fat Hen) is not a weed, as now treated in modern agriculture, but is rich in protein and a better food than cabbage and spinach which have replaced it. Modern cereals are grown at Butser as a comparison: they are weak and easily choked out by weeds, whereas emmer and spelt survive well in competition and give good yields. Peas and beans are also tested. A curious feature of wheat pollen is that it has been found to travel only one metre from the growing plant, and yet it has been identified in bogs. It is suggested that the pollen in these instances may actually be Timothy Grass and not wheat at all.

Dr. Reynolds was able to touch on only a small part of the extensive work of the Butser project. It survives, the audience was reminded, by selling science to the public!

Chariots at Garton? In September 1985 a British Museum excavation at Garton-on-the-Wolds led by ERAS member Dr. Ian Stead takes up the Iron Age chariot burial theme once again. Members will undoubtedly recall last years discovery of three chariots at Wetwang Slack excavated by the Humberside Unit's John Dent, which brought this rare Iron Age burial rite so sensationally to our attention once more thirteen years after Tony Brewster's spectacular find in the same quarry. 1984 was not without its controversy though, and here Dr. Stead paints the background to this years excavation plan and outlines his own views on the subject.

Many years ago I started to research into the Arras Culture and soon became disillusioned by the lack of associated finds and the poor quality of the records of nineteenth century excavations. It was obvious that new excavations were needed in order to recover reliable data, and because the vast majority of the burials had little in

the way of grave-goods it was also obvious that chariot burials were needed to provide groups of associated artefacts. In 1959 I explored the Arras cemetery, with the aid of Martin Aitkin who brought up his proton magnetometer -- then a very new aid to archaeology. Some seven acres were surveyed -- there were no chariot burials but we did identify a couple of curious square-plan barrow ditches.

Today square barrows are no longer a curiosity. Thanks to aerial photography we can identify thousands of them and quite a number have been excavated. From 1968 to 1978 I dug about 250 between Rudston and Burton Fleming, and others at Cowlam (1969 and 1972) and Scarborough (1970). John Dent has dug even more -- a cemetery of 446 burials at Wetwang Slack. Individual grave-groups were disappointing, however, and all were overshadowed by Tony Brewster's chariot burial found at Garton Slack in 1971. Last year even that was surpassed by John Dent's three chariot burials at Wetwang Slack: three more or less contemporary burials, each with one elaborately decorated artefact, provided us with the best group of associated third century BC metalwork not only from Yorkshire but from the whole of Britain. At last we were making progress in dating the Arras Culture.

Not the least significance of the Wetwang Slack burials was that we were able to check their response to a fluxgate magnetometer. Large areas of square barrow cemeteries had been surveyed with the magnetometer at Arras (by Martin Aitkin), Burton Fleming, Cowlam and Scarborough (by Tony Clarke) -- no chariot burials were found for the simple reason that there were no chariot burials there. Last autumn, armed with the information from Wetwang Slack, Tony Pacitto and I carried out detailed geophysical surveys at several sites and seemed to confirm that chariot burials produce a very distinctive pattern of readings on the magnetometer. We

located one apparent chariot burial at Slingsby and two in a field south of Garton-on-the-Wolds, but failed to find any at Huggate (where Tony Brewster had had good reason to suspect four chariot burials).

The Garton site is particularly interesting because the two relevant barrows are large (c13.0m and c16.5m across, compared with corresponding measurements of 6.0 to 9.6m for the Wetwang burials): this may well mean that the barrows are earlier than those at Wetwang, and they may take us back to the beginnings of the Arras Culture. Furthermore, unlike the Wetwang chariot burials those suspected at Garton are in a cemetery, and the cemetery seems to have had a long life. From a chronological point of view this site seems very important, so it was decided to dig here in September 1985. Any members of the Society who want to visit the site will be very welcome -- ideally you should come as a group and I can let you know the best time when I see how the site develops.

The discoveries at Wetwang last year were marred by the reaction of a vociferous minority who provoked the sort of situation the Press delight in -- "Battle Lines Drawn Over Chariots"! The impression was given that a group of outsiders were plundering Yorkshire's heritage. I hope that this note will help to set our work in context: it is all part of a long-term research project -- and I have been involved with it for over a quarter of a century! Together John Dent and I have excavated more than 700 Arras Culture burials: if we find what we expect at Garton then chariot burials will still represent less than 1% of the total. Far from being outsiders, we are both Yorkshiremen, John is an archaeological Field Officer working for the County Council and I am a founder member of your Society and was Chairman of the Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee -- the organisation that gave birth to the Humberside Archaeological Unit.

As for the ultimate home of the finds, one senior member of the Society told me last year that he believed all archaeological material should remain in the locality in which it was found. I can't believe that that is the view of the majority. Certainly most finds must stay locally -- and some of the best things that I have excavated grace the Hull Museums (especially the Rudston and Brantingham mosaic pavements). But part of Yorkshire's heritage must be shown to the world, in context, at the British Museum. It is worth reflecting that something like 90% of the funding for the work mentioned in this note came from national sources.

If we find what we anticipate this year, then the parishes of Wetwang and Garton will have provided quite enough chariot burials to satisfy the display needs of both the British Museum and the Hull Museums, and we should make yet another significant advance in our study of the Arras Culture.

Ian Stead

Editor's footnote: I propose to do no more than to hold the ring on this one. But while we're on the subject, members I am sure will be interested to know of a new title in a series of British Museum publications, Celtic Art written by Ian Stead. It is an attractive and most informative little book which contains nearly a hundred illustrations and photographs, many in colour, and with a good deal of material drawn from the East Riding. It naturally enough covers much of the same material as, though using it differently and going into less technical detail than, an earlier B.M. publication, Early Celtic Masterpieces from Britain in the British Museum by John Brailsford. But Celtic Art is altogether wider in scope and is not constrained by the essentially catalogue format of Brailsford's work, and for that it is extremely readable and a well-crafted exposition of the

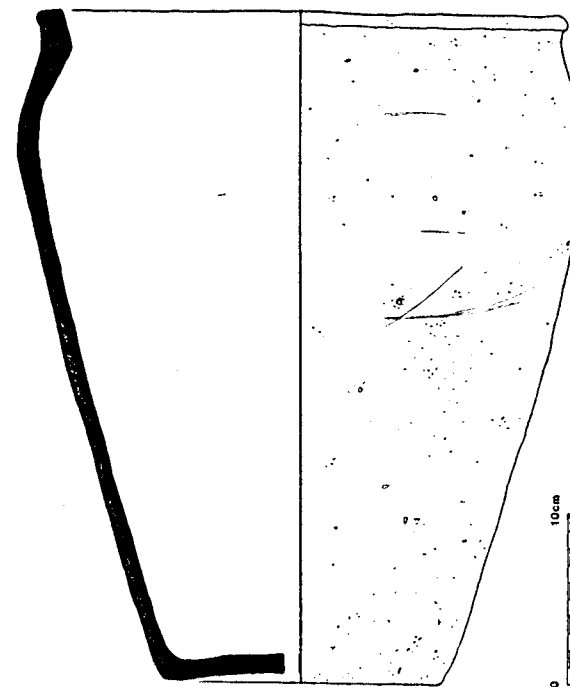
subject. It costs £4.95 from booksellers, but if you are visiting the B.M. you can buy copies there for only £3.50. Heartily recommended. And (not really feeling able to keep out of it!) if differences of opinion between Hull Museums and the British Museum are to be resolved, a step in the right direction might be for one or the other to offer or request stocks of Ian Stead's book for sale at the Transport and Archaeology Museum. Don't forget the punters, you guys!

After Dinner mint To the Hon. Treasurer's delight the annual dinner turned a modest profit this year, thanks to a tremendous response. The Middle Age Spread last March was a complete sell-out (as well as a complete blow-out too!) attracting 166 members and their guests. Stephenie Armstrong had something to do with it, but the great success of the event was undoubtedly down to the combined efforts of many: the University catering staff tackled and pulled off some difficult medieval recipes; and the performances of the Medieval Street Band were memorable and turned a lively and enjoyable evening into a very special one. Thanks are extended to all those, but especially Val Fairhurst, who provided herbs for the tables which enhanced the atmosphere and presentation. The generosity of the donors who supplied prizes for the raffle are also warmly thanked — Pat and Keith Simcock, John Knowles, Margaret Coates, Angus Smith, Robert and Alison Edwards, Tim Schadla-Hall, Peter Cottingham, and the Matador Travel Agency. We were very fortunate too to be able to welcome Peter Addyman and his wife, who stepped in at the eleventh hour for Ken Barton who was ill and unable to come as guest speaker.

There's more good things coming too, I suspect. A glance at this years programme on the membership card indicates another attractive period piece in an Elizabethan Fanfare in which food and music is to be combined once more in like measure.

Trench Mouth Val Fairhurst reveals all about the seamier side of the ERAS Field Group ....

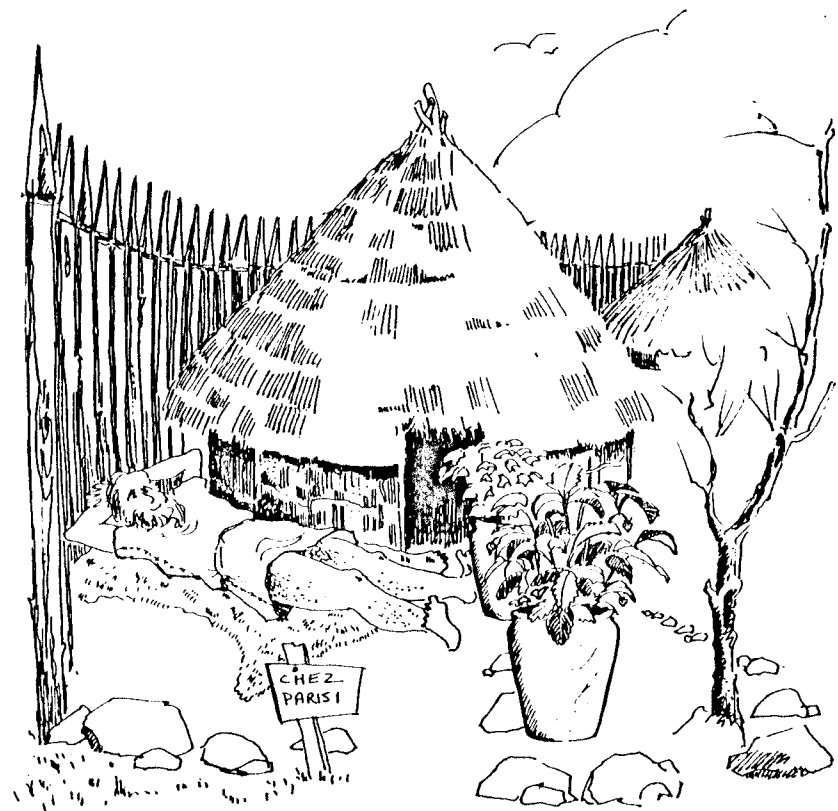
If the shopkeepers of North Newbald noticed a sudden increase in glue sales last winter, perhaps I ought to reassure them that this did not herald the arrival of a contingent of glue sniffers at the Old Church Rooms in the village. No, it was worse than that: the newcomers were members of the ERAS Field Group getting stuck in to some post-excavation work — a procedure seemingly consisting of transforming large numbers of small pottery sherds into smaller numbers of larger sherds, with the aid of large volumes of glue and no little patience. We perhaps felt as though some joker had mixed together a shop full of jigsaws and stolen half the pieces — and to make matters worse the "jigsaws" were three-dimensional.





Despite the tone of the introductory remarks, progress has gradually been made and we now have a number of almost complete late Iron Age pots, most hand-made but some of a wheel-thrown Belgic type, previously found no further north than Dragonby in Lincolnshire. This is all pottery from the Brantingham Cockle Pits excavation carried out in advance of quarrying in 1983 when ERAS members helped to expose a late 2nd/early 3rd century AD building overlying earlier Iron Age ditches. The building was in an area to the west of the Roman villa which was excavated by Ian Stead in the 1960s and in which was found the mosaic pavement now residing in Hull Museums.

One of the Iron Age pots to emerge from the sea of sherds is illustrated on page 15. This large hand-made pot, about 16 inches high, particularly intrigues us because of a neat hole in



its base. As yet no conclusions have been reached as to its function. In spite of the considerable scope it offers for a reconstruction of life in Iron Age Brantingham, as you will see, we have so far discounted the suggestion that it was purchased at Britain's first garden centre to decorate an Iron Age patio (another first for East Yorkshire??)

Meanwhile, the sticky work continues at intervals (narcotic state permitting) in the Old Church Rooms in North Newbald, courtesy of the Archaeology Unit of the County Architects Department, whose store it is.

Hull Museum Notes The whiff of acetone is in the air in the Transport and Archaeology Museum, High Street as well, bringing a new selection of material to view in the "Recent Accessions" display.

This time we are featuring the work of Museum conservation staff who have spent many months piecing together medieval pottery from archaeological excavations in Hull's Old Town. The pottery was made locally and across the North Sea between the 14th and 16th centuries, but all of it was used, and broken, by the town dwellers of Hull when it was a thriving medieval port. Some of the pottery is restored and looks as it has not looked for 500 years. Now they are on show for the first time - pipkins, panchcons, jugs and jars - and show not just the art of the medieval potter but also the skill and patience of the modern museum curator.

The material will be on show in the Transport and Archaeology Museum until the end of August.

Dave Crowther

South Bank Letter Hello, fans! Not a lot to report on the fieldwork front but there have been some interesting developments on other lines. In January Keith Miller and myself did a very odd excavation on a cottage

at Humberstone. This appeared to be a late 19th century brick affair until demolition started, and a timber-framed building was found encased in the brick, and thatch beneath the pantile roof. Myself and some people from the unit went out to look at it on a Friday. This was just as well, as on the Saturday the cottage got in the way of a JCB. We spent a couple of days digging around in the debris moving heaps of thatch and drawing up the framing. In the end we got enough data to do a reconstruction.

The building was an odd affair. It was constructed with very rough timbers, and some of the carpentry was pretty crude. The wall posts were not joined together below the level of the wall's top and looked like the legs of a table. It had, instead of a chimney, a mud and stud firehood (don't attempt this name while incriminated or with false teeth!). These are rare survivals as by their very nature they burn down with monotonous regularity.

We have no idea of the cottage's date; it could be as late as the early 19th century, a sort of Georgian starter home!

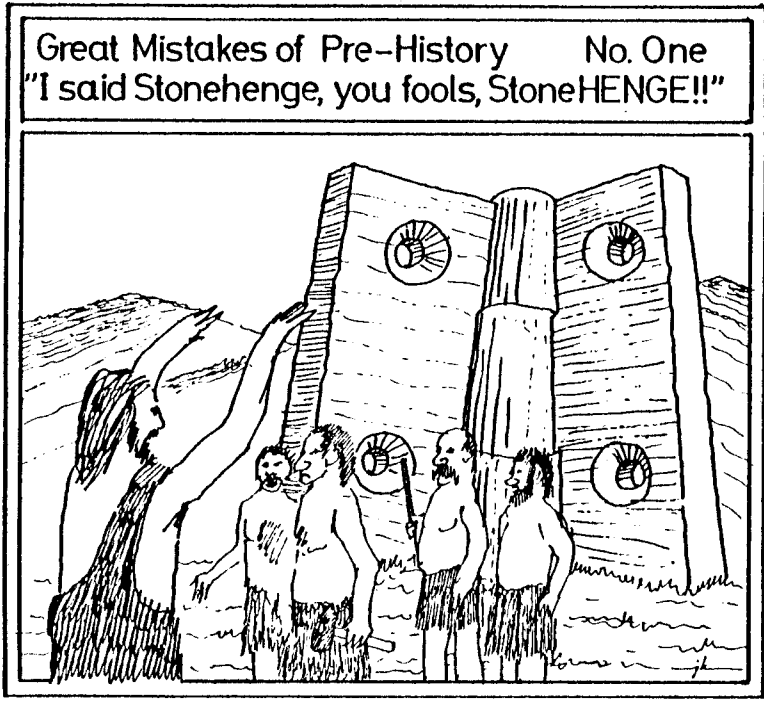
Kevin A. Leahy

A matter of life and death Make a note of a one day school on Saturday 21st September at the Yorkshire Museum, York, entitled "Life and Death in Yorkshire 400 - 1100 AD". The meeting is part of CBA Group 4's programme and speakers for the day are Margaret Faull, Richard Hall, Peter Armstrong, John Hurst, Dominic Powlesland and Julian Richards. Advance booking is recommended; the fee is £2.50, which includes coffee, tea and all the archaeology you can absorb, but not lunch. Further details are available from CBA 4's Programme Secretary, Dave Crowther of Hull Museum.

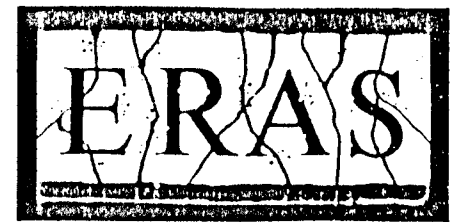
Changes As we approach a new session in the Society's annual programme, it is time

to acknowledge some hard work and devotion to duty. First, Keith Simcock, our Chairman for the past three years and indeed Vice-chairman for the three years before that, met the immovable object of the ERAS constitution at the AGM last April and stepped down from office. The Society is extremely grateful to Keith for his organisation, commitment and all-round chairmanship, so nicely finished off with his parting presidential address on an aspect of Egyptology - the fashioning, transport and erection of obelisks. This isn't the first time that Keith has fired his audience with his own enthusiasm for the antiquities of the East, and we trust it won't be the last. Secondly, the Society is going to miss the energy and steam provided by its leading stoker over the past three years. Tim Schadla-Hall has left the area to take up a senior management position at Leicester Museums. Tim's tireless efforts on the Society's behalf will be sorely missed, not just for his work as programme organiser - and it is to him that we owe the attractive 1986/7 programme too -- but as a determined driving force, always striving to see the Society realise its full potential. We haven't seen or heard the last of him, I'm sure (although when we have we stand to make a fortune - see ERAS News 19, page 33!!); the first opportunity Tim takes to be back amongst us is on October 12th at the ERAS/Department of Adult Education day school, details of which accompany this issue.

Promotion Behind the scenes there are stirrings and a renewed vigour to get ERAS in gear. A Promotions Sub-committee has been set up to explore and exploit opportunities to promote the Society. Fund-raising and member recruitment are primary objectives; the clear aim is to improve the Society's financial position to make it possible to publish the journal, East Riding Archaeologist, on a regular basis. The journal is issued free to members, so there



is a degree of enlightened self-interest in all this for us! Ideas and volunteers are required in equal measure. Whatever you feel you can do, or would like to do, your help will be invaluable. Please join in the effort. John Knowles (who has been researching the great mistakes of history as a sideline!) has agreed to coordinate activities in the first instance, but we want it to be a communal effort to generate momentum with plenty of fresh ideas and offers of help as we go. Please contact John, before he contacts you, at 18 Eastgate, Beverley; tel.862938.



Letters and contributions for inclusion in the newsletter should be addressed to :  
 The Editor, ERAS News, 37 West End Swanland, HU14 3PE