

Annual Dinner - Wed. 6th Feb. Following the success of last year's dinner it would be little short of wilful wrongheadedness not to return to Hull University's Staff House for a Buffet meal once again. As before, bar facilities will be available before and after - not to mention during - the meal. The menu, guaranteed to be as rich and varied as on the previous occasion, is being currently negotiated (see booking form for details), and we are delighted to have as guest speaker Dr. Donald Earl, Professor of Classics at Hull University, who has promised to take the lid off Roman cooking! (Please note, in view of the anticipated embarrassment of elbows in the trifle, no arrangements have been made for reclining at table!! The Catering Manager also informs us that stuffed dormice are definitely off!) Nonetheless (!) a good night out is certainly in prospect for all. The pertinent details are provided on the enclosed booking form, and in spite of the relatively short notice we hope that as many members as possible will feel able to participate and make the most of our one social event of the year. Numbers must be settled no later than 1st February, the date by which forms and remittances must be returned.

Subscriptions No, stay with page one a little longer! It's that time of year again, and if you do not pay by banker's order please spare a thought for your Treasurer and Secretary by making an effort to pay subscriptions as promptly as possible. The cost in time and postage in pursuing missing subs. would be better spent on more pressing Society business, and your attention to this delicate matter of E.R.A.S. finances as a matter of urgency would be much appreciated. Help preserve a Secretary's sanity - write a cheque today (£2.50 ordinary, £1.25 associate and stud-

ent) and forward to the Hon Treasurer, 26 Redland Drive, Kirk Ella. Alternatively, the Treasurer will be on hand to prise pennies from pockets at the following three lecture meetings, whereafter the wrath of the Secretary needs must descend.

January meeting The first lecture of 1980 should be one to stir everyone from their fire-sides, and with all due deference to the other speakers in the programme promises to be something of a highlight of the lecture series. We are fortunate indeed to have Aubrey Burl speaking on Prehistoric Avebury, the subject of his most recent book. The meeting is on 23rd January and is open to the public (non-members 20p). It is an excellent opportunity for new members to join the Society and a little advertisement from existing members in likely quarters may produce a profitable response and continue the encouraging upward trend of membership.

Journal The latest volume of the East Riding Archaeologist (no. 3 in the Hull Old Town Report Series, Excavations in Chapel Lane Staith by Brian Ayers) was published at the beginning of December. The Committee, ever mindful of overheads, has proposed to restrict postal distribution as far as is reasonably possible in the light of a postulated postage and packing bill of almost £200 if every journal is entrusted to the tender mercies of the G.P.O. Out-of-town members will of course receive their copies by mail as usual, but local members, who have not already done so at the December meeting, are urged to collect theirs in person at any of the remaining meetings in the current lecture programme. The savings to the Society will clearly be very great, and your cooperation in this would be much appreciated. I am also required to clarify the position concerning members' entitlement to the journal. This is somewhat problematical in view of the occasional nature of Society publications and can be confusing. So take a deep breath and read on! It is Society policy that

members who are fully paid-up at the time of publication of any given journal are entitled to receive that journal without further charge as part of their membership entitlement. However, the Society operates what might be termed an incentive scheme for the recruitment of new members, whereby anyone joining after 1st September in a given year is entitled to full membership for the whole of the ensuing year without recourse to further subscription on 1st January. Consequently these members are officially accounted for the ensuing year only, January to December, and are not therefore entitled to the benefit of free journal distribution when the publication occurs in advance of that year, even when the publication date falls between September and December of the previous year - as is the case with the newly published journal now. In the same way, new members actually joining in 1980 would not expect to receive a journal published the year before as part of their subscription entitlement. However, "post-September members", if we may call them that, can acquire any volume published during their first four months' "unofficial" membership at a substantial discount by virtue of the anomaly of their position under such circumstances. In the present instance therefore the Chapel Lane Staith report, published by the Society in December 1979 and normally retailing at £3.50, is available to post-September 1979 members for only £2.00. It is all a little involved, I know, and whatever decision is reached in such matters throws up its own problems, but the Committee has adopted the foregoing as a matter of policy until driven from its position by weight of members' contrary opinion!

The Arras Culture Delayed by a printing dispute but now available is a title recommended to members in the May newsletter. It is Dr. Ian Stead's, The Arras Culture published by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society at £4.50. The new publication is a complete revision of the author's La Tène Cultures of Eastern Yorkshire, which appeared in 1965, and arrives now at a most appropriate time as the full extent of the culture is beginning to be grasped from the

incidence of square ditched barrows identified from aerial survey. As Dr. Stead himself says at one point, "there cannot be a parish on or adjoining the Wolds without its square barrows, and in some areas one looks with disbelief at fields which apparently lack them". The recognition of extensive cemeteries and the results of important excavations at Garton/Wetwang Slack and the author's own at Burton Fleming, together with further research in Northern France and Belgium, have brought a fresh perspective to the study of the Iron Age in East Yorkshire. Dr. Stead's scholarly examination of the available evidence is as invaluable and compelling now as was the initial exposition of the material 15 years ago, but the difference lies in the expansion, the detail and the thoroughness of this timely revision. The book is divided more or less equally between the sites and the finds, the latter illustrated by line drawings of the finest quality and both supported by well-chosen plates. No one professing an interest in the prehistory of the East Riding should deny themselves the benefit of Dr. Stead's researches in this excellent publication. (The Arras Culture can be obtained by post - add 50p p.&p. - from the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York YO1 2DR).

And more besides... Another invaluable contribution to the archaeology of our area has been recently provided by the Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee's publication, A Survey of the Archaeology of Humberside compiled by Neil Loughlin and Keith Miller. It is a most thorough and comprehensive list of sites in north and south Humberside, indeed the most comprehensive published to date. The publication is first-rate, providing descriptions and grid references of sites together with loose-leaf maps of the districts within the county to help you find your way around. The price is £8.25 (did you take that without blinking?) and it is available from the Local History Library, Central Library, Albion Street, Hull.

Lecture summaries:

26th September - Reports meeting
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There were three contributions - Glyn Coppack reporting on excavations at Thornholme Priory; Peter Armstrong on Lurk Lane, Beverley; and John Dent on Wetwang Slack.

Thornholme Priory A resumé not only of the latest season's work, but of the past five seasons' excavations was provided by Mr Coppack. Lying two to three miles north of modern Brigg in South Humberside, Thornholme sits at the junction of the marine peat and the limestone, and must have virtually comprised an island in the medieval period. Remarkably clear detail of the ground plan was demonstrated on a J.K. St. Joseph air photo, but recent ploughing affecting a quarter of the 10 acre site has caused much damage. Excavations had revealed much of the Priory such as the 14th century precinct wall, robbed out after the Dissolution, and a boundary ditch which had a curiously defensive character. A Gatehouse with added stables had also been subjected to later stone robbing. The Gatehouse had been constructed in c.1400 and had been modified over the years up until 1536. A barn built c.1500 replaced an earlier hall, possibly affording accommodation for servants. Another 15th century structure, interpreted as a granary, had been a rebuild of a quite different building, a domestic aisled hall of 13th century origins, considered by the excavator to be the Priory Steward's residence. A dovecote adjacent and of the same date would have provided the means for a valuable winter food resource. Further service buildings have been identified - a bakehouse with stone floor and timber partitions set remote from the Priory centre as a fire risk, and a brewhouse. Beneath the latter were the remains of a 12th century hall and chamber block, the probable forerunner of the Steward's hall whose ground plan bears a close resemblance to that of the Jew's House in Lincoln. An earlier phase of the dovecote was also identified and finds of large quantities of leather waste would indicate a tannery nearby, probably utilising guano

collected from the dovecote. Evidence of a timber phase for the monastery in the 12th century was also outlined with a guesthouse of c.1180 and a one metre deep precinct ditch. The excavation of the Priory Church remained incomplete, although multi-phase construction has been demonstrated by the partial excavation to date.

Lurk Lane Beverley Peter Armstrong described the results of the first six weeks' trial excavation on a site adjacent to Beverley Minster. Documentary evidence demonstrated that the area had been unoccupied since at least 1677, although a number of dwellings were attested for Lurk Lane in the 15th and 16th centuries, with all but two in decay before 1532. Ample evidence had been gathered from the excavation to indicate that structures betraying medieval occupation occurred over much of the site, related to a possible road, but the restrictions of a 1.5m wide trench, even over its 50m length, rendered interpretations tentative. The nature and scale of the structural evidence, however, suggested the probability of buildings directly related to the Collegiate Church.

Wetwang Slack John Dent explained how the rescue excavations of the 1960s had developed into a large scale research project to study the ancient landscape of the Slack. From air photos the Iron Age settlement associated with the cemetery, which had been the pre-occupation of archaeological attention, had been identified along with other cemeteries and linear boundary ditches. A green lane on the valley side today has the appearance of an Iron Age trackway and may be a survival from that period. Further square ditch barrows had been identified along a road whose ditch appeared to form a boundary to the settlement. Round houses occurred to the north of the principal cemetery and further round houses in square enclosures suggested a continuity of occupation from the Iron Age to the 2nd century AD from evidence already extracted. The grave goods from an interpretable sequence of burials had proved significant in establishing a chronology of brooch types. In this way dragonesque

brooches at Wetwang could be demonstrated to be earlier by three centuries than other comparable examples already excavated in Britain. It was also suggested that certain glass bead types found in the graves may be British copies of common Mediterranean styles of the 4th and 3rd centuries BC. Coral brooches were obvious imports however. The first season of the excavation of the settlement was under way and was indicating Iron Age and Roman occupation ceasing at about the time of Hadrian. Huts were found to have chalk floors and some may be interpreted as weaving sheds from the artifactual evidence associated with them. Roman road metalling had been discovered in one of the Iron Age ditches constituting a boundary to the settlement. To date, 434 burials had been excavated providing an average age of mortality of 28. Tentative estimation of the population of the Iron Age settlement based upon the available evidence was of 45 to 50 persons at any one time.

24th October - The development of the town and port
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of Newcastle, Barbara Harbottle
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Miss Harbottle provided an archaeological review of the historical development of the town. The site of Newcastle was dictated by the location of the lowest bridging point on the tidal waters of the Tyne. The present day low-level swing bridge is a replacement in turn of both medieval and Roman counterparts. The town occupies the north bank, with an 80ft rise from the river to the Castle and a more gradual elevation further north again. The Lort Burn and other natural streams provided the framework for the streetpattern. Roman bridge piers (Pons Aelius) have been identified and altar stones have also been found on the north bank. Although Roman Wall alignments are commonly postulated, nowhere has the wall been actually encountered. The Roman fort however lies beneath the Castle and excavations have identified a granary and road junction. The headquarters' building may be represented by a paved hall beneath the Castle Keep. Even earlier occupation can be demonstrated by ditches beneath the fort and may be indicators of Iron Age

ownership within a larger laid-out system. Funnel entrance lanes, possibly for the easy droving of animals, were also associated with these field systems and were sometimes traceable for several kilometres. Enclosures smaller than the normal fields, which latter could be up to 5 acres in area, were frequently found in or with the fields, and speculation ensued as to their use. Mr Riley also explained to members some of the rigorous conditions of weather, crop and time of year which had all to be optimum for worthwhile results from the necessarily expensive flights. Taking somewhere in the region of 2000 photographs over the 6 or 7 weeks of ripening cereal in some 70 hours of flying time had to be followed each year by several months of sorting, mapping and describing sites found. The area described in the lecture has now been well covered and is already awaiting publication. While aerial survey is unable to solve many of the problems it raises, such blanket coverage as Mr Riley has produced both helps the dirt archaeologist decide where his spade may most profitably be employed and enables a more complete picture of the total environment in the past than can normally be produced from excavated artefacts and structures.

19th December - Stainburn, the archaeology of a Church

 and its parish, Richard Morris

The redundant church of St Mary, Stainburn, 5 miles NW of Otley on the north flank of Wharfedale, had been the subject of a recent archaeological study and survey by the speaker. Three alternatives face the 7 to 800 redundant churches in Britain, each of which have archaeological implications; they may be converted to different uses, they may be demolished, or they may be preserved by endowment from the Redundant Churches Fund. St Mary's falls into the latter category. Efforts to draw attention to church archaeology have secured places for archaeological representatives on 28 of the 42 Diocesan authority committees. This has been a principal task of the CBA's redundant church committee which was founded in 1972. Recognising that the archaeology of standing churches is applic-

able to both above and below ground remains, several considerations were given to the Stainburn project in advance of the survey drawn from previous experience. The study of the church would require a drawn survey stone by stone at a scale of 1:20. How was this to be achieved? Small scale excavation in advance of minor drainage work at Little Sombourne (Hants.) had proved very effective and might be repeated in a similar way at Stainburn. As documents have proved unreliable in the area of church archaeology, the study of the physical evidence might assist the understanding of parochial geography by providing a chronological framework for the growth of the parochial pattern. In this respect the location and distribution of churches throughout the country requires careful study for the understanding of settlement patterns in general. Churches must be studied in their community context, not in isolation. Parochial chapels, such as Stainburn, might be indicators of expansion, although downgrading from parish church to chapel remains a possibility which can confuse. Stainburn is a very ordinary example of a small church, wherein lies its merit in the context of the survey, as plain buildings demand as much attention as the more major edifices which have tended to receive a disproportionate share hitherto. The relationship between cemeteries and churches is also an important one and required consideration at Stainburn. The origins of cemeteries require elucidation generally. Pagan cemeteries and Christian churches may occur at opposite ends of a settlement, adjacent, overlapping or completely coincident. In many instances Saxon burials are entirely absent, possibly in reality camouflaged by more recent medieval burials. Such were the points of consideration which were to direct the approach to the Stainburn project. St Mary's stands isolated from the village of Stainburn and is subject to the Saxon church at Kirby Overblow, 7 miles distant. The reason was thought to lie in a Lordship change. The fabric of the church was thoroughly examined and found to be built of rubble stone and included rotary querns, probably indicating the antiquity of settlement, supported to some

degree by finds of prehistoric flints and an axe in the area. Windows included Norman forms and intrusive elements of a domestic architectural origin, the latter indicative of cheap replacement probably at a time of financial hardship. Part of the eastern end of the church was rebuilt in neater ashlar masonry of unknown date. On the inside plaster rendering survived and whitewashing had largely obscured black letter writing. Evidence of a balcony, long since removed, and wall graffiti was also found. After a careful consideration of the fabric as a whole, the church was photographed to scale with a technical camera and the prints were subsequently joined to provide the basis for the elevation drawing, a considerable saving on resources and an acceptable process given the nature of the building's construction. The church was planned in the normal way. A small excavation was undertaken serving the dual purpose of both archaeological and architectural reconnaissance. This demonstrated an absence of foundations explaining the outleaning wall and also provided evidence of human burials aligned differently to the axis of the church, suggesting the existence of an earlier building. Further excavation indicated a total absence of footings to the entire church and the particular absence of burials on the north side, probably merely as a result of exceptionally hard digging on this one side of the church. No graves earlier than the 12th century were found, the earliest examples being the shallowest and with finds including buckles, arrowheads and shroud pins. A geophysical survey of the area surrounding the church, in which earlier ditch alignments are identifiable, has been undertaken and further work is in prospect, including an examination of the graveyard and its botanical remains.

Excavations at Beverley Progress here has been dramatic with the trial trench blossoming out into a full-scale area excavation and volunteers supplemented by staff recruited through a Manpower Services' temporary employment scheme. Sunday working has been kept up in order to maintain a level of Society involvement, but the participation

of members has been disappointingly slight. The site is producing structures of large proportion, probably of 15th century date, with a metre of stratified floor deposits of an earlier building lying below. We will in all likelihood be still very much involved therefore when Spring comes upon us, at which time it is to be hoped that Society interest will revive!!

Highlights of Northern Archaeology Held on the weekend of 7th to 9th March 1980, this York Archaeological Trust/Leeds University joint venture is a non-residential conference at the De Grey Rooms, St Leonard's Square, York. Contributions include: Richard Hall - Coppergate; Peter Addyman - Vicars Choral of York Minster; Prof Barri Jones - Roman defences of the Cumberland Coast; Nicholas Reynolds - Sancton Anglo-Saxon Cemetery; Prof Rosemary Cramp - Jarrow; plus several others and (can you believe it?) a tour of York excavations. The conference fee is £17.00, and further details and booking forms can be had from the Director of Special Courses, Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Leeds.

CBA 4 Symposium For a day of archaeological indigestion, there is nothing to beat the CBA Group 4 symposium when speakers from the Greater Yorkshire area are spread very thinly (15 minutes max.) across a full day of cloistered seclusion in a sound-proofed lecture theatre at the University of Leeds!! It is in fact an excellent platform from which archaeologists can inform and be informed of current work in Yorkshire. This year it is to be held on Saturday 2nd February, and further details may be obtained from Pamela Judkins, Keeper of Archaeology, Wakefield Museum, Wentworth Terrace, Wakefield.

What a way to go! I have received details from one of our members, Miss Lamb, of a study tour of Medieval towns and villages in the Dorset, organised by the University of Southampton's Adult Education Department. The tour leader is Mike Hughes, Hampshire County Council's Archaeological

Officer (it's wonderful what the EEC has done to south coast archaeology!!!). The dates are 9th to 18th April and the price is (gulp!) £240. However, the University's reputation in such continental affairs is extremely high and the following extract from the advertising notes suggests more than a dry historical motivation behind the tour! ... "The medieval landscape of the Dordogne, part of which was English Gascony in the Middle Ages, can be compared to the settlement pattern of parts of England... The rural landscape consists of small, sometimes fortified towns and large villages ... often with fortified churches ... or with dominating chateaux. The tour will attempt to visit all types of settlements, both existing and decayed, and examine aspects of their history, street plan, their vernacular buildings and their place in the landscape. Many of the new towns of the Middle Ages, as well as those of earlier origins, were founded or prospered on the fortunes of the region's wine trade. This region today is still famous as a producer of fine wines," (here it comes!) "which, combined with the gastronomic delights of the Dordogne, will provide those intending tour students with an added incentive!" What about it then? Details from Mrs I. Candy, Department of Adult Education, The University, Southampton.

June excursion A date for the diary is 14th June, provisionally fixed for a Society excursion to Hadrian's Wall country and Vindolanda. Keith Simcock has the organisation in hand and further details will be given in the next newsletter.

CBA publications The following are titles, mostly recent, extracted from the CBA catalogue and stock list 1979/80, which members may care to know about or acquire. They are available post free at the prices quoted from the Council for British Archaeology, 112 Kennington Road, London, SE11 6RE.

Peopling past landscapes: a handbook introducing archaeological fieldwork techniques in rural areas by John M. Steane and Brian F. Dix - a wealth of info-

rmation on the preparation, planning and execution of rural archaeological fieldwork - from documentary sources to the techniques of recording earthworks and surface scatters. A5 100pp £3.00.

Guide to university courses in archaeology by Fiona Roe - an invaluable handbook which brings together all the information needed by those who wish to choose a course in archaeology at a British university, whether as a main or as a subsidiary subject. A5 64pp £1.95.

Archaeological resources handbook for teachers edited by M.J. Corbishley - information and lists of people and material, both audio-visual and printed, of help to teachers of archaeology in schools. A4 136pp £2.50.

Historic buildings and planning policies by David Peace - this booklet describes the legal framework within which threats to historic buildings are dealt with; it also draws attention to deficiencies in the machinery and suggests remedies. A5 32pp £1.60.

Survey by prismatic compass by Raymond A.H. Farrar - how to use the prismatic compass for archaeological surveying and the advantages it has over other methods. A5 20pp £1.00.

How to record graveyards by Jeremy Jones - all the necessary information for groups or individuals who wish to carry out surveys of their local churchyards, often neglected sources of local historical data. A5 48pp £1.50. (this is a second edition)

A final word Contrary to a previous postulation that the newsletter might get thinner, this appears not to be the case! It is not, however, the result of a flood of contributions from members, which is a shame. There are, however, exceptions and thanks are extended to our Chairman and to Miss Lamb for their assistance and suggestions. All copy will be gratefully received - think of the thrill of going into print!!!