

ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 84 SEPT 2015



Investigating rock art and Iron Age features at Lordenshaw, Northumberland, during a weekend trip. Photo: V. Fairhurst

*Local News ~ Northumberland Trip ~ CITiZAN Project ~YAS Roman Conference
Historical Association ~ East Riding Artists Archaeology Exhibition ~ Diary*

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ERAS LOCAL NEWS . . .



Our own little Darwin

Former ERAS secretary Rose Nicholson reports that baby Darwin Alexander Nicholson Greenfield, now nearly 6 months old, is keeping her busy as he learns to crawl. The above picture was taken recently on the beach at Sewerby. Bet he's a good digger already.

Legacy from Dr Michael Mayne

We are delighted to report that 'Dr Mike' left the sum of £2,000 to ERAS, in his will. Mike, who died in Scotland last year, worked with us on the excavations at Arram in 2004/5 and had always said how pleased he was to find a friendly and interesting group with which to get actively involved, particularly following the death of his wife.

Heritage Open Days

Hull HODS on 10th – 13th September, has some excellent free events, including the opportunity to look around the following – Annison's Building, with its Victorian first floor stables and ramp (near North Bridge); the BBC Building in Queens Gardens; the Arco Distribution Centre, Priory Park; Christopher Pickering's House in Coltman Street, as seen on BBC 2's Restoration Home programme; Charter House chapel and gardens; HM Prison, Hedon Road; G. F. Smith, paper suppliers, Lockwood Street; Hull Magistrates' Court; Hull Docks; the Smoke House, Wellington Street. Plus

loads more. **Some tours must be pre-booked.** Get the brochure or check the website for many more unusual places to visit during this special weekend. www.hullcivicsociety.org For some reason, ERAS does not seem to have been asked to take part in the activities this year, although we have done so for the past two or three years, resulting in lots of interest from the public.

Chris Clarke

We were so sorry to hear of the sudden death of Christine Clarke, at the age of 65 in March this year. She was the wife of David Clarke, our ERAS website officer and mother of archaeologist and former committee member Katherine Roe, and her sister Helen Higgins. Chris had been a member of ERAS for many years and enjoyed lectures and some of our earlier social events. She was a keen world traveller to see historic sites and she and David came on last year's ERAS weekend trip to Fishbourne Palace and the Mary Rose Museum. Our sympathy goes to David and the family.

Book sales

We are getting more book sales, since our website has been updated, with titles and prices. Thanks to Dave Clarke, Angela Fawcett and Ed Dennison, for their involvement in booksales.

'Layers of Meaning' Art Exhibition, Opening

An East Riding Artists exhibition is at the Triton Gallery, Sledmere, from 8th – 20th Sept. It is the result of the artists' focus on archaeological sites and ERAS did an artefact handling day for the group in June. They loved our animal bone collection, as well as site drawings, projected images, flints, fossils and pottery, which they studied and sketched. Work on show will include painting, sculpture, jewellery and textiles. If you are interested, the opening event is at 6.30pm on 8th September and ERAS members are welcome.

Rod Mackey

Our best wishes go to Rod Mackey, who has been in and out of hospital rather a lot recently. We hope you will soon be home, Rod.

Field Studies Group

During 'Field Studies' meetings, members are still working on cataloguing pottery from the 2004/5 Arram excavation. The group is friendly and informal, so join them at 7.30pm on the first Weds of the month at St Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley or ring Graham on 07815 088573 or contact Richard Coates on coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk for details.

Editor

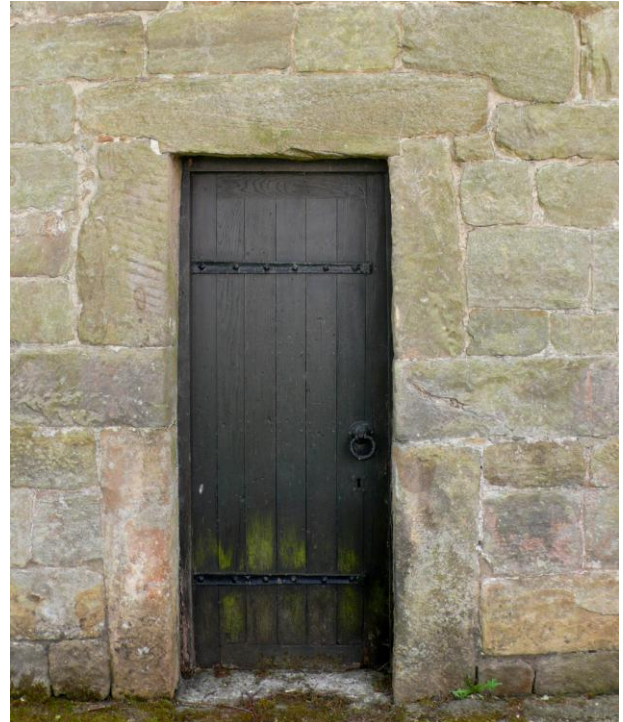
ERAS SUMMER TRIP 2015



The first stop on the ERAS weekend coach trip to Northumberland was the tiny Anglo-Saxon Church at Escomb just south of Bishop Auckland. The church is a rare example of an un-enlarged church of the period, and our little group of thirty one just about filled it. Inside there would have been very little light were it not for the later-inserted, large, east window and one got a real feeling of safety, solidity and enclosure surrounded by the tall dank stone walls, with none of the spaciousness, lightness and airiness of the Romanesque or later gothic styles with their aisles, soaring arches, windows and tracery.



Our guide pointed out several incorporated pieces of cut stone known to have been taken from the defunct Roman fort at Binchester, just to the north. Much more of the building stone was probably also from Binchester, but only where the re-used stones show evidence of Roman workmanship or lettering, can this be proved. On the north side, a stone doorhead had been made using a tongue and groove type of joint which would have been



more suitable for a wooden construction, suggesting, perhaps, that the 7th century Anglo-Saxon builders were not fully conversant with stone masonry at this time. Inside, some examples of painted plasterwork survived (see picture below) and more examples of Roman legionary stones could be seen. This little gem of a church is certainly worth a visit if you are in the area. You can easily arrange to get the keys and/or have a guided tour, followed by an excellent sandwich lunch at the pub opposite as we did (they do the best chips ever).



At Binchester Roman Fort, we had a guided tour of the site where excavators were working on both the fort area and the vicus. The fort was built in the 1st century AD to protect the point where Dere Street, the main road north from York, crossed the River Wear. It housed up to 1,000 soldiers, from Spain, Holland, North Africa and the Middle East. This is

the sixth season of excavation and there was so much more to see since the last ERAS trip to Binchester, many years ago. The number of volunteers working on the site, run by Durham County Council, was amazing and must have needed considerable co-ordination and supervision. This will be the last season before a pause for writing up the excavation results.



As was normal, a vicus or small town had developed, around the Roman fort, where soldiers' families lived, together with opportunist traders, craftsmen, farmers and merchants. Some small baths in the vicus area were being excavated and the quality of preservation was excellent, with much wall plaster remaining, (see large area of wall plaster in foreground of picture below).



Our two - night stop, the Best Western Derwent Manor Hotel, near Allensford was excellent and for those that could find the time there was access to the health spa and swimming pool. Meals were also excellent with large tables and a sociable atmosphere, which was good for the many single travellers with our group. On the Saturday, which must have been the windiest day of the year, we visited Warkworth Castle in the morning. There was then the option of going to the National Trust property of Craggside - the first house in the world to be run by hydro-electric power - with its fabulously steep, showy, terraced gardens. About half the group opted, instead, to walk out on the moors at Lordenshaw, to find some of the carved stones known to be in the area and an Iron



Age fort, with dramatic views down into the valley. If it was atmosphere this group were after, they got it in buckets full, with thunder and lightning thrown in. Good job they were able to join us later at Craggside for a quick cuppa and the chance to dry out. Our driver chose an excellent if slightly bumpy route back to the hotel, through the wonderful countryside of the National Park, which was appreciated by everyone except the one poor person suffering from travel sickness.

On Sunday we went to Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall and had a tour of the extensive remains of the fort. The baths at this northern outpost were considered by contemporary writers to be rather primitive and dirty. This was confirmed by excavation results, as there appears to have been no way of draining the water, except by bucketing it out. Perhaps further work will resolve the question. After lunch in the café, we had a look around some of the spectacular exhibits in the museum, which houses the famous writing tablets. Notable were the fragments of glassware with finely detailed painted decoration and the showcases full of conserved leather shoes and sandals, many of which would not look out of place in a 21st century shoe shop.



After a long tour of the outdoor remains, we did not have enough time to do justice to the museum and shop, but would recommend it to other travellers. Back on the coach, before joining our route south to Hull, we took a slight detour to follow the route of Hadrian's Wall, to get a sense of how it looked in the landscape, which you cannot see from being at the Vindolanda site.. Everyone seemed to enjoy the trip and the group bought me a card and theatre voucher (excellent choice, thanks) in appreciation of organising it. But be warned I will not be organising another trip - someone else's turn to do it next year. So start planning now.

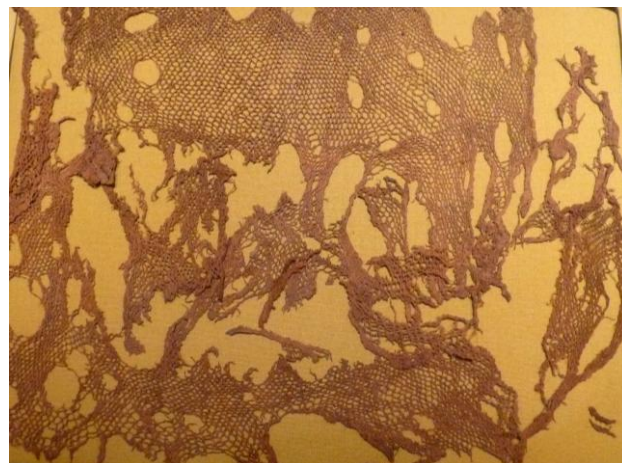
Kate Dennett. All photographs in this article are by myself or Valerie Fairhurst.



Fiona Wilson and Les Hebb, drying out with a cuppa at Cragside after the Lordenshaw moorland rock-art hunt.



Reconstruction of water supply system at Vindolanda



Part of a Roman (hair?) net conserved at the Vindolanda museum.



Above: The Iron Age hillfort ditch at Lordenshaw

Below: Mobile phone info signboard at Lordenshaw



Left: The 14th century cross-shaped keep at Warkworth Castle, part of the extensive remains overlooking the estuary of the river Coquet, Northumberland.

CITiZAN - TRAINING DAY

SUNDAY 28 JUNE, ARRAM

Ken Parker

Several months ago, Andy Sherman & Megan Clement gave a presentation to the ERAS Field Studies Group, to explain the latest major public archaeology project, CITiZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network). Andy and Megan, from the northern office of the project at York, explained that the purpose of the project is to record sites at risk of erosion, within tidal areas nationally. They are particularly interested in the Yorkshire & Lincolnshire coastline, as well as the Humber estuary. The project is designed to enable the general public to check out and help with the recording of anything they come across, which they think might be of archaeological interest.

As a result of the initial presentation, a Training Day for beginners wanting to take part in the CITiZAN project was organised for ERAS, at Fiona Wilson's farm at Arram. Participants were Ann and Les Stubbs, Geoff Howarth, Ken and Jacky Parker and Oliver, with Colin Parr, Richard Coates and Graham Myers as observers. The training was really enjoyable as well as being informative, the main topics covered being Health and Safety, Stratigraphy, Photography, Plan Drawing and the taking and recording of Site Levels.

Health and Safety covered what you might expect when visiting a tidal muddy foreshore or beach sites (including the bases of cliffs) as well as bio-hazards, such as Leptospirosis & Weil's Disease etc. **Stratigraphy** was new to us and after a brief explanation, we were given three examples of layers which might be encountered on a typical excavation. We then were tasked to attempt to produce stratigraphy diagrams (usually known as sections). Needless to say, we needed more practice!! The next topic was **Photography**, where we were given handy hints about how to record any archaeology we might have discovered – no bags or feet in the photograph, ensure there is a suitable scale in the photo, keep written records of what you have taken, show which direction is north, ALWAYS take more than one photograph, etc.

The **Planning Theory** was to make sure that you had all of the relevant equipment to produce an accurate record, in plan form, of what could be seen on the ground. This included measurement equipment, paper or drawing film, scale rule, a north arrow, a scheme for recording drawing numbers, equipment for setting up a baseline from

which to take measurements, tapes and survey pins, etc.

The **Planning Practical** was really useful and actually quite entertaining! An 'excavated' site containing a fish trap, anchor chain, various 'excavated' tree stumps, etc. was simulated on Fiona's patio. We were tasked to produce an accurate site drawing using a baseline and measuring tape. Needless to say, this produced a few laughs but, eventually our drawings actually looked like what was there in front of us on the patio! The **Levelling** part of the training involved the practical use of a dumpy level, tripod, staff, notebook and pencil. We were also introduced to - temporary bench marks (TBMs), back sight readings and foresight readings, as well as various drawing conventions. The idea is that anybody taking part in the project, wherever they are in the country, will use the same system of recording.

The CITiZAN project is funded by a major initial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, plus funding from Historic England (formerly English Heritage) with match funding from the National Trust and the Crown Estate. It is hosted by Mola (Museum of London), CBA (Council for British Archaeology) and the Nautical Archaeology Society. It is interesting to see how, since the break-up of English Heritage and the move towards charitable funding, much more public involvement is required in order to get major grants for archaeological projects.

CITiZAN is bringing out an App (in theory, very shortly) which can be down-loaded onto a smart phone, so that when you discover something interesting, you can easily photograph it, give its GPS position, describe what you have discovered and then e-mail it to the CITiZAN office. The App should be able to tell you whether the feature you have found is already recorded on your local HER (Historic Environment Record, formerly known as the SMR, or Sites & Monuments Record).

After the coursework at the Arram training day ended, there was a general discussion about it and we all agreed that once the App is up and running, we ought to visit somewhere like Spurn Point to have another training session using the App. Then we'll be confident and ready to Go! In conclusion, a really good day was had by all the participants.

Ken Parker, with additions by the editor.

FURTHER CITIZAN PROJECT AT CLEETHORPES

Following on from the previous article, CITIZAN is hoping to record a newly discovered trackway, possibly of Bronze Age date, within an area of submerged forest on the intertidal zone of Cleethorpes beach. Training will be on Sat 26th Sept and recording on Sun 27th Sept. You can get there by car or there is a railway station nearby.

Places are limited, must be pre-booked and are only open to fit and agile people, as the terrain is wet, muddy, slippery and some distance from facilities. Wellingtons, warm clothing and packed lunch etc are essential and exact timings will have to be weather and tide dependent.

Please book via Eventbrite.

<https://training-cleethorpes-submerged-forest-saturday.eventbrite.co.uk>

<https://training-cleethorpes-submerged-forest-sunday.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you have problems booking, please email mclement@hotmail.com

FURTHER CITIZAN EVENTS

ERAS Reports Meeting

Andy and Megan will be speaking about the CITIZAN project as part of our first meeting of the season, the Reports evening, a round-up of recent work over the summer, in this area.

Turn the Tide.

The first annual CITIZAN Conference, on Saturday 10th October, 9.15am. Community and Culture, South Marine Drive, Bridlington YO15 3JH

Check their website for further details

Guided Walk

26th October 10am. Community and Culture, Belvedere Parade, Bridlington, YO15 3QN
Check their website for further details.

ERAS PUBLICITY EVENTS

ERAS has a new gazebo for publicity events. It was a bit too large to be used on the pavement at our very successful Cottingham Day event, but any ideas for future venues are welcome. Please talk to any of the committee, if you'd like to help.

The Historical Association, Hull Branch, 2015-16 Lecture Programme

This smaller but old-established group has considerable overlap of interests (and members) with ERAS and is worth investigating.

Thurs 15th Oct. King John and the Founding of the English Empire

Dr. Colin Veach (University of Hull)

Sat 17th Oct. Visit to Walcot Hall, N. Lincs, and Goole Waterways Museum

Information from Mrs Vivien Feetham,
154 Magdalene Lane,
Hedon

Thurs 12th Nov. Regeneration and Hull's History in Beverley Road and Pearson Park

Dr. Tegwen Roberts (Beverley Road Townscape Heritage Scheme Project Officer) &
Dr. Carl Lewis (Parks for People Project Officer)

Thurs 21st Jan. 2016. The Legend of Ragnar Lodbrok 'Hairy Breeches'

Dr. Martin Arnold (University of Hull)

Thurs. 25th Feb. The Family and Criminal Law in the Roman World

Dr. Julia Hillner (University of Sheffield)
Joint Meeting with the Classical Association

Thurs. 10th Mar. Why did the Easter Rising of 1916 Change Ireland?

Dr. Caoimhe Nic Dhaibheid (University of Sheffield)

Thurs. 14th April. Blasphemy and Toleration in the 1650s

Professor Justin Champion, President of the Historical Association

All meetings are held in the Danish Church of St. Nikolas, Osborne Street, Hull HU1 2PN

Meetings begin at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome and are asked to make a £2 donation, towards costs.

**Coffee and biscuits are usually available at this very pleasant and convenient city centre venue .
For more information contact
Sylvia usher on 01482 448065**

CBA Yorks Forthcoming Events

WWI Home Front Legacy Day School

Sat 12 Sept, Sheffield University, Humanities Research Institute, South Yorkshire, S3 7QY

Recording WWI sites in the UK, for community groups. The dayschool will get you actively involved with the Home Front Legacy 1914-18 project. You will learn about the 'toolkit' and resources to use with existing projects or show you how to start one up and help you to connect with the local HER (Historic Environment Record). Bring your own laptop, tablet or mobile, if you have them, for a practical recording demonstration. Running from 2014 to 2018, the Home Front Legacy 1914-1918 Project is supporting local groups researching local places associated with the Great War, with an online toolkit and guidance for recording the remains of sites, structures and buildings around Britain.

Day School on Site Photography

Autumn, but date and venue to be confirmed.

CBA Yorkshire AGM & Symposium

Feb 6th, 2016, York St. John University.
Programme to be announced in December.

LOCAL PUBLICATIONS

The two publications mentioned below concern major sites which might be of interest, even though they are in other parts of Yorkshire, and are reviewed in the latest YAJ (Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, Vol 87). It is good to see such well-considered and thorough reviews by Alex Gibson and by Mark Whyman, respectively.

Cult, Religion and Pilgrimage. Archaeological Investigations at the Neolithic and Bronze Age Monument Complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire. Jan Harding, Council for British Archaeology Research Report, 174, York, 2013, 236 pages, with 155 illustrations, 73 in colour. Paperback, £25

Iron Age and Roman Settlements at Wattle Syke: Archaeological Investigations during the A1 Bramham to Wetherby Upgrading Scheme. L. Martin, J. Richardson and I. Roberts. Yorkshire Archaeology 11, 2013, 336 pages, with 185 illustrations, 74 in colour. Paperback, £20

Yorkshire Archaeological Society Conference: Sat. 24th October RURAL SETTLEMENT IN ROMAN YORKSHIRE

Joint conference sponsored by the Roman Antiquities Section (YAS) and The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies (The Roman Society)
Milton Rooms, Market Square, Malton YO17 7LX

Programme

9.30am Coffee and Registration

10am Dr Martyn Allen – Rural settlement across Roman Yorkshire: data syntheses from the Roman Rural Settlement project

10.30 Dr Clive Waddington – A neglected frontier: results from preliminary excavations on a high status settlement on the Brigantian-Roman frontier

11am Dr Peter Halkon – Roman impact on the landscape of the Foulness valley and the western escarpment of the Yorkshire Wolds.

11.30am Professor Martin Millett - Across Wold and Vale: new evidence for the dynamics of Roman rural settlement

12-1.30 Lunch

1.30pm Dr Steve Sherlock – The Landscape of *Cataractonium* (Catterick)

2pm Ian Roberts – The Other Side of the Vale: The Magnesian Limestone in the Later Iron Age and Roman Period

2.30pm P. Denison-Edson – Romano-British settlement patterns in Swaledale: answers and questions, with particular reference to 4th-century material culture

3pm Coffee

3.30pm Mike Haken and Hugh Toller – Lines in the landscape: Roman roads and rural settlement

4pm Nansi Rosenberg - The Aiskew Roman villa

4.30pm Discussion

Conference Bookings

Please include name, address, phone number, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope or your email address to receive booking confirmation to:

Peter Wilson,
RAS, Rarey Farm,
Weaverthorpe, Malton,
North Yorkshire, YO17 8EY

Tickets: £12, £10 for Roman Antiquities Section (RAS) and Roman Society members
Cheques should be made payable to 'Roman Antiquities Section' Any queries or for further details, contact: pandjwilson@btopenworld.com or 01944 738282



Layers of Meaning



East Riding Artists will be exhibiting their work responding to the extraordinary wealth of archaeology in our area, over ground, underground, on the coast and inland.

At The Triton Gallery, Sledmere

September 8th to 20th 2015

10am to 5pm

Contact eastridingartists.co.uk

Email: roseandrobin@vistaarts.co.uk

ERAS DIARY 2015-16

- Wed 16 Sept. Reports Meeting, a round-up of recent work in the region.
Ken Steadman (HFA), Paul Clarke (AOC), John Tibbles (ERA), Megan Clement and Andy Sherman (CITiZAN).
- Wed 7 Oct Field Studies meeting.
- Wed 21 Oct Lecture: From Trees to Terraces; the history and conservation of Beverley Road and Hull's first People's Park. An update on two major conservation projects by Hull City Council.
Tegwen Roberts and Carl Lewis.
- Wed 4 Nov Field Studies meeting.
- Wed 18 Nov Lecture: Finding a Proper Neolithic in the Yorkshire Dales.
Yvonne Luke.
- Wed 2 Dec Field Studies meeting.
- Wed 16 Dec Lecture: Historic England over Yorkshire: Revealing hidden landscapes through aerial survey.
David Macleod.
Followed by bookstall, drinks and mince pies.
- Wed 20 Jan Lecture: The Early Fabric of Beverley to AD1700 – A progress report on the National Heritage Protection Plan project, by the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group. (new building surveys and tree-ring dating, interim reports)
- Wed 3 Feb Field Studies meeting.
- Wed 17 Feb Lecture: Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon Remains from the Humber Gateway Cable Route.
Andrea Burgess.
- Wed 2 Mar Field Studies meeting.
- Wed 16 Mar Lecture: Lead Smelting in the Yorkshire Dales.
Richard Lamb.
- Wed 6 Apr Field Studies meeting.
- Wed 20 Apr AGM at 7pm, followed by
Lecture: Skeletal Remains from Turkey and the Ukraine; Diet and the transition to agriculture.
Malcolm Lillie

All lectures are at 7.30 pm at the University of Hull, Cottingham Rd. Hull, in the Wilberforce Building's main lecture theatre, opposite Zuccini's café.

Field Studies meetings are at 7.30 pm in the St Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane,

