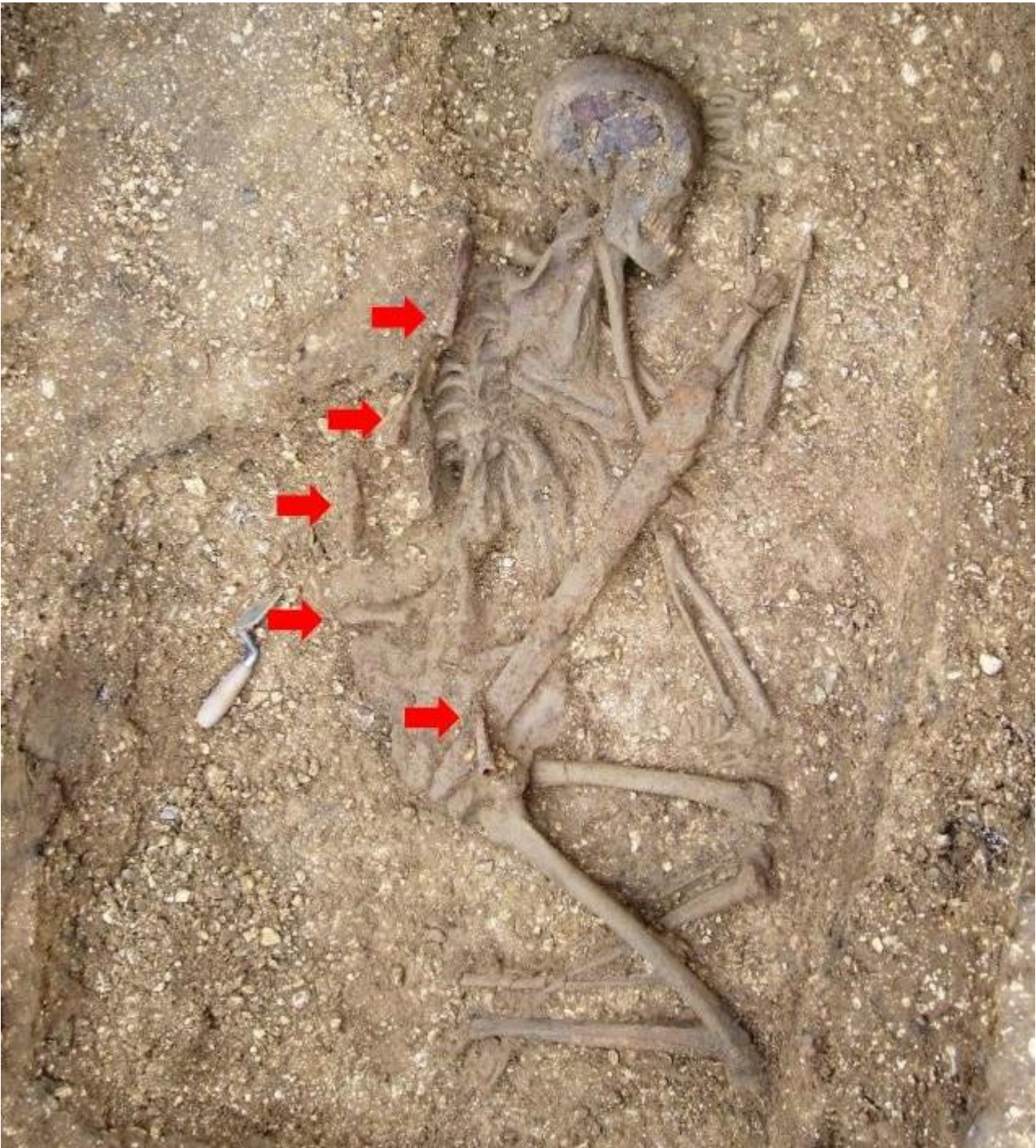


ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 89 MARCH 2018



Iron Age burial with spearheads and sword, Pocklington 2017

Photo: © Malton Archaeological Practice

*Local News ~ Lecture summary: Living & Dying by the Sword ~ Arras 200 Conference
AGM Notice ~ CIA Conference ~ Howden visit ~ Book Review ~ Events ~ Diary*

Contents

<i>Local News</i>	3
<i>Lecture Summary: Living and Dying by the Sword</i>	4
<i>Arras 200 Conference Report</i>	5
<i>CIA Conference Report</i>	6
<i>Fridaythorpe, Fimber & Wetwang Archaeology Project</i>	7
<i>Visit to Howden</i>	7
<i>AGM notice</i>	8
<i>Events for your Diary</i>	9
<i>Book Review</i>	10
<i>ERAS Diary</i>	11

Comments or contributions are always welcome.
Please send to the Newsletter Editor,
Kate Dennett,
455 Chanterlands Ave. Hull. HU5 4AY
Tel. 01482 445232
katedennett@katedennett.karoo.co.uk

Ideas for publicity can be sent to Samantha Braham
samanthabraham@hotmail.com

To join or renew membership see form on last page.

To enquire about your subscription status contact
Colin Parr, 32 Woodgate Rd, Hull.
cparrateras@outlook.com

www.eras.org.uk

Follow us on facebook

Send us a tweet @eastridingarch

ERAS is REGISTERED CHARITY No. 500878

ERAS LOCAL NEWS . . .

South Wales visit

Our weekend coach trip to South Wales starts on Thursday 7th June and returns on Sunday 10th. The itinerary includes visits to Ogmore Castle, Monmouth Castle and museum, Caerwent Roman town, Tinkinswood Burial chamber, Tintern Abbey and the SS Great Britain in Bristol. The cost, including three days bed and breakfast (incl. dinner on the first evening) is £390 per person in a single room or £290 per person in a twin/double room. Accommodation is at the Beaufort Hotel, Chepstow (with a cheaper alternative of staying at a highly commended back packers' hostel nearby if you are on a tight budget). We have seventeen bookings but the hotel might accommodate a few more. If interested, please contact the organiser - Valerie Fairhurst on 07887 660454 or v.j.fairhurst@hull.ac.uk

Congratulations to Will Ransome

Danny Ransome tells us that his son Will, a student member of ERAS, has had an offer to study Classics at Cambridge. Will has also been enterprising enough to apply for and been accepted onto the excavation team for the dig on the Medieval site in Sicily, which was the subject of our December lecture by Prof. Martin Carver, who encouraged people to apply. Danny, who admits to some jealousy, says the information and contacts Will made as a member of ERAS were very helpful both in his course work and in interviews. We are looking forward to hearing more about the Sicily venture, so watch this space.

Mary Bartlett

Mary is the widow of one of our founders, John Bartlett, the Keeper of Archaeology at Hull and East Riding Museum (HERM) in the 1960s. We heard from Mary's son Phil recently, that Mary has enjoyed keeping in touch with ERAS for many years, as an honorary member, but has now moved into a care home in her local area of Derbyshire and is giving up her ERAS membership.

Elmswell Farm Project

Angela Fawcett reports that ERAS has been invited to participate in this project from 12 – 27 August. It is run by **DigVentures**, who have secured Heritage Lottery Funding to continue a project which began last summer. We will have more details, once the project design has been finalised, but it is likely to entail a landscape survey with our new resistivity meter, fieldwalking and hopefully excavation opportunities. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for further details

ERAS Website

I know not all ERAS members are up to speed with technology and still like to get a printed newsletter, but it is worth having a look at our new ERAS website even if you have to get the grandchildren to show you how! (www.eras.org.uk) We would welcome any feedback on how easy it is to access and to navigate. You can contact our website officer, Tom Clay on eras.websiteofficer@gmail.com

East Riding Archaeologist, Volume 16

You should have received your free copy of our latest publication, Volume 16 of East Riding Archaeologist (yellow cover, in case you are confused over which one this is). If you are a paid up member in the year in which it is published, you get a copy post free.

Field Studies Group

The group is working on sorting and labelling thousands of pottery sherds, all rejects from an RB kiln at Holme on Spalding Moor, excavated in the 1990s and more helpers are welcome. Meetings are at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday 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.

Britain at Low Tide, Channel 4 TV

Watch out for this programme featuring the CitiZan group's work in our area.

Surveying at Fishwicks Mill Beverley Westwood

We are hoping to return to this site to do more resistivity work on Heritage Open Day (HODS) on 8th September. Details will be on the website.

WE NEED your new email address

ERAS Secretary Colin Parr says that if you have not received an email from him in the past few weeks, he probably has an out of date email address for you. **Please contact him with your new email address.** Old Freeserve accounts are not in use any more but he still has some of these are on his contact list.

Annual renewals were due in January

If you have not renewed your membership and do not pay by standing order, please send your annual fee, using the form on the back page. We are hoping to organise payments by Paypal or similar in future.

Lecture Summary: Living and Dying by the Sword

Dr Yvonne Inall February 2018

During research for her PhD, the lecturer had examined over 400 British spears. Inspection of these artefacts in many collections across Britain, showed that some weapons, which had been classified as Anglo-Saxon, on typological grounds were actually from the Iron Age. Although Bronze Age metal typologies were good, she had, during studies of the metal work, seen the need for a better typology for spears from the Iron Age and had made the production of such a typology the focus of her research. Looking at background influences on our perceptions of war, she noted that Caesar had talked of Britons using throwing missiles and the legend of the sword Excalibur was also very strong in our culture.

For her studies Yvonne had divided the spears into three categories - 1. Heavy throwing spears, 2. Light thrusting spears and 3. A mixed category for more versatile spears. Heavy throwing spears predominated and the category included items made of bone (which might be seen as disposable). The ratio of blade width to total length was crucial in categorisation. Although classed as heavy, most throwing spears were thin enough to damage themselves on impact, so that they could not be thrown back. Most of the light thrusting spears, intended for use in close combat, had a strengthened mid-rib and tended to be found in specific contexts. It is quite possible that wooden spears were also used in combat, but these have not survived as evidence.

The majority of find spots were associated with specific depositions, especially funerary ones. Statistically, E. Yorkshire has far more martial objects within burials than anywhere else in the UK. There are only nine known burials with what is known as 'full panoply' ie a shield, a sword and a spear and of these, three are in E. Yorkshire. However, if burials with only one or two items are included, then there are a great many more which can be classified as 'warrior burials'. Cultural distinctions, which we do not understand may have come into play, as there is much variation in the burials. For example, the 'speared corpse' burial recently found at Pocklington (see front cover picture) had five spear heads carefully placed along the spine, but in other 'speared corpse' burials, the spears appear to have been thrown in during the infilling of the grave.

E. Yorkshire is particularly important in terms of swords and the N. Grimston sword is an excellent example. Iron Age chalk figures from Withernsea seem to show swords worn on the back, which would be easy to manage only if the sword was relatively short. Shields are less easy to discuss as there is less evidence. Brunaux and Rapin produced a typology in 1988, which classed them as not solely defensive but having the option of being used as weapons. However they are often made of organic materials such as wood and/or leather, thus there is a problem with survival. With reference to armour, Dr Inall did not see this as a crucial part of being a 'warrior' in the Iron Age. The Kirkburn mail tunic is the only one known in the north. Where armour is found (rarely) in burials there is nearly always a continental link. Very few helmets are known, although cremated bones were deposited in a helmet at a site near Canterbury.

Analysis of non-funerary deposition of metalwork is difficult and it is necessary to look at environmental samples to establish whether the find spot was a wetland site at the time of deposition. Deposits of metalwork tended to be made at the end of the occupation of a site and some of these may relate to the concealment of weapons on arrival of the Romans, but others may be seen as devotional deposits or related to superstition or ritual, especially where items have been deliberately broken prior to being deposited. Yvonne stressed the variety of the weapons examined and commented that she had not been able to carry out a comprehensive survey of all weapons in British collections, so some selection had had to be made in terms of what was accessible and practical in terms of research. She discussed the large spears from LlynCerrig Bach, also the fifty bone spears from Fiskerton, which had been taken apart before deposition in the water and concluded the latter may have been a closing deposit for a causeway. The mass of buried disarticulated human remains found in the 1960s at South Cadbury Castle, together with many brooches, swords and spearheads may have been a case of an offering of sympathy from local people after some sort of disaster, rather than a 'massacre'.

Yvonne envisaged the Iron Age warfare scenario as involving a lot of 'hype', rather than all-out battling. There would probably have been much preparation and noise and a lot of scary posturing but only a relatively small amount of actual fighting.

Written from notes taken, so any errors in the above are the fault of the editor.

Editor

ARRAS 200 CONFERENCE REPORT

Celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the Arras excavations, the Royal Archaeological Institute conference took place at York in Nov. 2017. With a wine reception in the grand setting of the Yorkshire Museum and a comprehensive opening presentation entitled *A view of the Arras culture from Scotland: We have chariots too* by Dr. Fraser Hunter, the scene was set for a memorable conference and with visitors from Scotland, Brazil and Belgium and a sprinkling of archaeological grandees, we were not disappointed.

There were many excellent speakers, but I cannot summarise all of them here, so will just pick out a few items of interest. Paula Ware of Malton Archaeological Practice spoke about the Iron Age cemetery discovered recently during pre-building work at Pocklington and gave much anticipated details of the burials, one of which included a chariot burial with horses. The potential for further statistical analysis of an Iron Age population at this site is tremendous. She finished her talk about this particular site, and then announced that at a completely different site, the company had just unearthed yet another chariot burial. That really set the room buzzing, but she would say no more!

Both Yvonne Inall and Mel Giles gave interesting presentations with Mel commenting on how our own cultural prejudices may have led to misinterpretations in the past, taking as an example, a double burial with a neonate, which used to be viewed as possibly 'a sinful couple'. She suggested that another interpretation could be that of a childbirth death resulting in a partner suicide.

In *What the bones tell us – Diet, Health and Origins of Populations in Iron Age East Yorkshire*, scientists, Dr Mandy Jay and Dr Janet Montgomery discussed inorganic evidence from tooth enamel and organic evidence from bone and dentine. When interpreting isotope data, Dr. Jay noted that bone samples give end of life values, whereas dentine gives early life values. They stressed that although archaeologists (and the media) always seem to want them to state where the subject of the analysis has come from, it is only ever possible to say where they have *not* come from. Even within these parameters, there are difficulties, for example, the Paris basin and the Yorkshire Wolds would give a very similar signal and cannot be distinguished in this type of testing. Another difficulty is that the published data maps cannot be used any more, as they are now outdated and scientists need to use the latest datasets in addition.



You might recognise, amongst others, Greta Anthoons, Janet Montgomery, Fraser Hunter, Peter Halkon, Tim Champion, Ian Stead, John Dent, John Collis, and Mandy Jay visiting the Arras site.

Anyone driving along the A1079 near Arras Hill on the Sunday morning must have been somewhat bemused to see a crowd of (mostly) elderly people well scarfed and hatted up against the frosty weather, pushing and falling their way through brambly hedges in order to stand in the middle of a bare field. But for the participants, the opportunity just to be there, just to stand, almost in reverence on the site of the famous Arras Iron Age cemetery it was a wonderful experience, especially when accompanied by Iron Age specialist Ian Stead, who excavated on the site in 1959. It had of course been excavated in the 19th century by local gentry and then by the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club and Canon Greenwell. Peter Halkon, who was leading the coach expedition, gave a summary of the history of the site and the tour later continued on into Hull for an all too short visit to the Hull and East Riding Museum.



Peter Halkon (left) and Ian Stead (right) at Arras

A recent magnetometer survey by James Lyall (funded by ERAS) was able to confirm some barrows on the Arras site, but was unable to show some of those which had been visible on Google 2007 images. Sadly, considering the importance of this site, those most noticeable by their absence were the Bronze Age round barrows, which were in fact, the only scheduled monuments on the site.

Editor

Council for Independent Archaeology Conference Report

CIA is the organisation which championed the development of a user friendly and affordable resistance meter for independent archaeologists. The group was started, many years ago, by Andrew Selkirk, editor of *Current Archaeology*, as a way of encouraging independent or amateur archaeologists to get involved in excavation and the publishing of their results. It seems that Andrew had encountered difficulties in dealing with professional archaeologists and felt that a pressure group was necessary. We have never had such problems in E. Yorkshire, where cooperation between professional, commercial and amateurs has always been very good.



ERAS member Tom Shay discussing the Ticknall pottery. The curving brick walls of the old bottle kiln can be seen in the background .

ERAS has been a member of the CIA, right from the start, but the CIA day conference in Derbyshire in October 2017, may prove to have been the dying breaths of the organisation. Now that the resistance meter and its updated version have been successfully launched, some might think the organisation has little purpose and it is certainly not attracting younger members to take on the key committee jobs. However, these meetings still, give excellent networking opportunities and I attended, the conference as I wanted to show continuing support.

Sharpes Pottery, Mocha ware

Because of its location in a pottery producing area, the conference had a bias towards pottery production. It was held in Sharpes Pottery Museum, Swadlingcotes, where the outer brick skin of an old bottle kiln has been conserved, as a

museum and meeting room. Philip Heath spoke about the history of the site which produced Rockingham Ware as well as kitchen and dairy items known as Mocha Ware. The acidic black decoration was dripped onto the yellowish alkaline background where, with a little help, it spread naturally to give a tree-like design. Few whole pots survive now, as it did not wear well. It was noted that children would often be employed to apply the designs to Mocha ware.

The local clay has a high alumina content, which meant it was specially suitable to take a salt glaze and so when plumbing and sewage disposal became common and salt glazed sewer pipes were being made in Swadlingcotes, Sharpes Potteries switched from domestic wares to making sanitary wares such as toilet bowls, cisterns and squatting closets, but the trade later declined when concrete or plastic took over for sewer pipes.

Martincamp Flasks

Another excellent presentation was from Janet Spavold and Sue Brown of the Ticknall Archaeological Research Group. They had a comprehensive pottery display and a handling collection which included Cistercian wares, Ticknall pottery wares, Midlands Purple wares and Martincamp flasks. The group appears to have found the only known manufacturing site of Martincamp flasks, which were previously thought to be only imported from France. Sherds from these distinctive round bottomed wine flasks (below) showed how the premade spouts were hand-joined to the wheel-thrown body. The flasks had no handles and would have been filled with wine decanted from casks and carried within a leather or wicker holder by agricultural workers in the field. They were made until c 1670.



There was a range of other presentations, including some very interesting work by garden and landscape historian Dr Ann Benson at Troy House Estate, where she used geophysics with good results to reveal water features, paths and walls.

CIA Conference, cont.

Pseudo-section choirs!

An exciting presentation came from electronic engineer and meter designer Bob Randall of TR Systems Ltd. Bob is continuing research into improving the geophysics equipment and is looking to automate the taking of readings for pseudo sections. Apparently it was not only ERAS which found it had to ban chatting amongst helpers during the procedure of moving the connections. Various novel methods of keeping minds on the job emerged during the discussion after this session, including a 'choir' format where each person sings out the colour of their connecting wire, as soon as they have changed it over and the reading cannot be made until each colour has been sung out. Under Bob's new plans all that will be unnecessary as it will be automated. (A pity as it sounds a fun way to do it!). Another development in the pipeline (already built into the Mk 2 meter) will be the ability to download a square array which can detect smaller features and much finer detail, without the use of the remote probes. He has also produced a three probe array for the Mk 2 meter, which makes it easier to get a good connection with the ground.

K Dennett

FFWAP's Further Adventures

The Fridaythorpe Fimber Wetwang Archaeology Project continued to be proactive throughout the winter. (See summer excavation photos on back cover. *Ed.*) Under the guidance of James Lyall, five members of the group have been learning the skill (and art) of magnetometry. The group are now deemed to be 'almost proficient' and have recently been undertaking surveys in Fridaythorpe where part of the route of a multiple line of prehistoric ditches and banks has been defined. FFWAP has been granted the use of an FM36 magnetometer to allow further surveys to be conducted. In order to be able to function as an independent unit, they applied for a grant from the CBA Mick Aston Fund which is supported by Historic England. Last week they were advised that their application to enable the purchase of fibre glass ropes, ranging rods and an optical square had been successful. The training of further FFWAP members will soon commence.

FFWAP was also awarded the CBA Yorkshire King/Thubron Award 2018 in order to finance a series of five talks, titled 'Secrets of the Past'. (For details see Events page). One of the primary objectives of these talks is to enable the local community to discover that they live in an area of significant archaeological importance. To this end each house in the villages of Fridaythorpe, Fimber

and Wetwang was circulated with details of the lectures. On Tuesday 13th March, 84 people attended the first of these talks given by Dr Peter Halkon. Peter's flythrough of the early years of the East Riding had the audience spellbound. This talk has set the stage for the next lecture on Tuesday 10th April when Kate Dennett will be talking to us about the excavation of Chariot Way in Wetwang.

Alison Spencer

HOWDEN VISIT

Hull & East Riding Historical Association

ERAS members can join a HERHA branch visit to Howden on Sunday, 13th May, 1.30-4.30, when Howden Civic Society guides will show us round, **but you must book**. Howden has a long and unusual history, with interesting buildings in the historic town centre. King Edgar gave Howden Manor to his first wife, Ethelfleda, in AD959. The building of Howden Minster began 1228 but was not completed until the late 15th century. Howden became a centre for pilgrims because of John of Howden's alleged miracles in the latter part of the 13th century. At his funeral in 1275, he had raised his arms from his open coffin during his requiem mass to greet the host. Through pilgrims' gifts, Howden received the funds needed to complete the minster, so a prophecy that he would help the minster from beyond the grave came true.

More recent history is varied. A site on Pinfold Street was used as a lodging house for the needy, then a workhouse was opened on the site which included a manufactory, stone-breaking yard, cowshed and prison. By the late 18th & early 19th centuries a horse fair was well established. It is estimated that up to 4,000 horses were on sale every day of the fair and that the total worth of the sale was £200,000. It is thought that Wellington's cavalry used horses bought at Howden in the Napoleonic Wars. In the late 19th & 20th centuries the local aviation industry was for a short time on the cutting edge of technology. An interesting R100 Airship History Trail is intriguing to follow.

We hope you will decide to join this visit. Please contact Vivien Feetham by email: vivienfeetham@yahoo.co.uk.

Or book by sending a cheque for £3 per person, payable to **Hull and East Riding Historical Association** to Vivien Feetham, 154 Magdalen Lane, Hedon. E. Riding, HU12 8LB, by 8th May. Please include your name and address and contact details and you will be sent more information for the visit. Lifts might be available.

Thanks to Sylvia Usher for the above info.

East Riding Archaeological Society
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.0pm WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018
WILBERFORCE BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF HULL

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Secretary's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report**

- 6. Election of Officers**

Committee Nominations are:

Chairperson:	Angela Fawcett
Vice Chairperson:	Fiona Wilson
Programme Secretary:	Richard Coates
Secretary:	Richard Coates
Editor:	Dave Evans
Treasurer:	Colin Parr
Website Officer:	Tom Clay
Field Studies Officer:	Graham Myers
Marketing Officer:	Samantha Braham

Any other nominations for the above posts are welcome and should be sent to the secretary, Colin Parr, in writing, no later than 9th April. Colin's address and email can be found on Page 2 or on the website. Members wishing to nominate someone should seek that person's agreement before doing so.

7. Election of Five Ordinary Committee Members

Ordinary committee members who are willing and eligible to stand for re-election are:

Andy Fergusson, Lisa Johnson, Richard Lamb, Ken Parker, Alison Spencer

We have five nominations for five places. Further nominations are most welcome and may be made in advance or from the floor of the meeting. Members wishing to nominate someone, should seek that person's agreement before doing so.

Should there be more nominations than places, an election will be held.
(As newsletter editor Kate Dennett is willing to be co-opted onto the committee)

8. Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed at 7.30pm by a lecture, by Rebecca Griffiths
The Work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

RememberMe Conference (Free Event)

The changing Face of Memorialisation

4-7th April at The Guildhall, Hull

NB. Registration closes on 23 March

Details on how to register can be found on the Events page of the website:

<https://remembermeproject.wordpress.com/events/>.

Conference registration is free, and refreshments will be provided each day of the conference. There will be an associated social programme including tours, wine receptions and dinners, some of which will be free, others at delegates' own expense.

Hosted in Hull, UK City of Culture, as a legacy programme event, this interdisciplinary conference brings together British and international researchers from a wide range of disciplines, exploring themes relating to memorialisation, including:

- The influence of role and identity on memorial forms and purposes
- Emotional and behavioural aspects of practices
- Religious, spiritual and secular meanings in death
- The socio-political construction of death
- The geography of memorialisation
- Gender, sexuality and age in death and memory
- Socio-economic and cultural variations
- The public/private interface
- The professional cultures of health and social care practice and funeral and memorial services

There will be several papers which have an archaeological theme and Ken Steedman has agreed to come along and speak about his excavations at Hull Minster.

16th - 17th May 2018, Sheffield

Investigating Tree Archaeology.

The first of two conferences looking at archaeology and heritage at the core of understanding treescapes. These will link the managed woodland or individual trees to their processing and utilisation in historic buildings, other structures and processes. They will bring together veteran tree specialists, dendrochronologists, archaeologists, vernacular building architects and technologists, ecologists and woodland historians to discuss the history and technology of woodland management, processes and products.

www.ukeconet.org/tree_archaeology.html

EUROPA Conference 2018

Coastal Archaeology in Prehistory

22nd - 23rd June

The Prehistoric Society

Heslington West Campus, York University

International event in honour of Prof. Geoff Bailey. Many speakers including Prof Vince Gaffney, Prof Chris Stringer, Dr Rachel Bynoe, Dr Stephanie Piper, Dr. Alex Gibson, Dr Robin Inglis.

Members £95, non members £110

Students/unwaged £50

Bookings

<https://pseuropa2018.eventbrite.co.uk>

Historical Association (Hull Branch)

Thur 12 Apr. 7.30pm. Lecture: "Unworthy of an Honest Man" Francis Walsingham, Espionage and

Deception in Elizabethan Politics. Hannah Coates.

The Danish Church Osborne Street, Hull HU1 2PN. Visitors £2

Hull & East Riding Historical Assoc.

Visit to Howden (see page 7 for details)

Sunday 13 May

£3. (Booking required)

Heritage Open Days

Sept 8th ERAS surveys on Beverley Westwood

FFWAP (Fridaythorpe, Fimber and Wetwang Archaeology Project)

Alison Spencer's group, which carried out a successful first excavation near Fridaythorpe last year is holding a series of talks, all starting at 7pm in Wetwang Village Hall. All welcome, entrance free, refreshments £1. Details below-

13 March From Mammoths to Mosaics

Dr. Peter Halkon, University of Hull

10 April Chariot Way, a Multi-period Site in Wetwang Kate Dennett

15 May Remotely Sensing the Romans

James Lyall (incorporating the results of the FFWAP1 excavation 2017)

12 June Where are our Roman Roads? Mike Haken, Chair of the Roman Roads Research Assoc.

10 July Local History through Newspaper Archives. Dr Ruth Beckett, University of York

BOOK REVIEW

Thwing, Rudston and the Roman-Period Exploitation of the Yorkshire Wolds. Report of the excavation and survey of Thwing and Rudston (East Yorks.) with specialist reports and interpretative essays.

Editors R. Ferraby, P. Johnson, M. Millett & L. Wallace

Leeds: Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society, 2017

ISBN 9780993238376

Paperback, 272 pages, fully illustrated in colour and black and white

As so often happens in archaeology, the project undertaken in 2004-8 and published in this volume, was triggered by the chance find of a piece of fine white marble, spotted on a field at Manor Farm, Thwing, by amateur archaeologist "Stivvie" Thomas, who reported his discovery to Tim Schadla-Hall, who contacted Martin Millett to investigate this rare occurrence. Prof. Millett assembled a team to undertake surface investigations, including extensive magnetometer survey and field walking, complementing the known crop mark evidence, which showed an extensive ladder settlement, most concentrated to the south of the pond at Thwing, with further enclosures and linear features extending north towards the Neolithic round barrow of Willy Howe. A series of excavations was then carried out focusing on a building with stone foundations, which considering many years of intensive ploughing had survived remarkably well.

As with all Prof. Millett's previous E. Yorkshire publications, this volume goes far beyond a mere excavation report and assembles a wide range of detailed evidence to shed new light on Roman activity within the Great Wold Valley. After chapters 1 and 2 which set the scene, chapter 3 provides an account of the detailed survey of the ladder settlement, comparing the results of geophysical survey, field walking, crop mark analysis and metal detector survey, to provide chronological phasing of the ladder settlement. The finds include some unusual objects such as a decorative copper alloy fitting from a box or piece of furniture, Roman coins and brooches, quern fragments and Roman pottery. Chapter 4 presents the results of the excavation of the building which was quite unusual. Unlike most Roman rural buildings of this type (the term "villa" is deliberately avoided) which were elaborated by the addition of a corridor and wings, the central part of the north-eastern facing side of this simple three-roomed structure was indented. A row of posts was

inserted between the "wings" to support a roofed corridor, thus producing the effect of a winged-corridor villa by contraction rather than expansion.

Chapters 5 and 6 discuss the situation of the building in its wider settlement and landscape, with chapter 7 bringing together study of the patterning of finds. In Chapter 8, Prof. Millett provides an insightful synthesis of the ladder settlement. He also considers the relationship which the Roman inhabitants of this landscape may have had with the nationally significant Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments of the Great Wold Valley such as Willy Howe. Whilst the southern portion of the ladder settlement complex provides evidence for small-scale mixed farming, which apart from the piece of marble is not out of the ordinary, he suggests that the quality of the metal finds in the northern portion extending towards Willy Howe and the Gypsy Race itself may be the result of some form of structured deposition reflecting the ritual significance of the landscape here.

Chapter 9 presents the results of the geophysical survey undertaken around the well-known villa at Rudston, and concludes with a discussion of the famous mosaics and their possible N. African connections. Chapter 10 places the research at Thwing and Rudston into a broader context. Somewhat quirkily the volume concludes with a chapter considering what turned out to be a cylindrical artefact from the Merlin engine of a Halifax bomber which crashed into the field near Thwing in April 1942.

The editors are to be congratulated on pulling together the work of as many as 33 specialists, all carefully acknowledged. Special mention must be given to Lacey Wallace who was responsible for the attractive page layout, for one of the great strengths of this volume is its illustrations both colour and greyscale. The use of colour in site plans and in presenting the results of field walking data is particularly useful, as is the combination of colour photographs and line drawings of artefacts. All in all this is a most important contribution to our understanding of the archaeology of one of E. Yorkshire's most important archaeological regions and thanks to the generosity of sponsors including the Roman Research Trust, the Prehistory and Roman Sections of the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society and the East Riding Archaeological Research Trust is available at the amazing value for such a handsome volume of £18 from:

http://jeremymillspublishing.co.uk/bookshop/index.php?id_product=346&controller=product

Peter Halkon

ERAS Diary

- Wed 4 Apr Field Studies meeting
- Wed 18 Apr AGM at 7pm followed by lecture
The Work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Rebecca Griffiths
- Wed 2 May Field Studies meeting
- Wed 6 June Field Studies meeting
- Wed 4 July Field Studies meeting
- Wed 1 Aug Field Studies meeting
- 12-27 August Elmswell Farm Project (ERAS participation in the DigVentures project)
- Wed 5 Sept Field Studies meeting
- Wed 19 Sept Lecture meeting - A round-up of work in the region

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. Non-members welcome (£1 donation).

Field Studies meetings are at 7.30 pm in the St Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley on the first Wednesday of each month. No charge, just turn up, but - **Outdoor meetings might be arranged in the summer time, so please contact Graham Myers on 07815 088573 or Richard Coates on coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk**

You will receive a newsletter in early September with details of the Autumn lecture series. Also you can check our website or Facebook page.

Cut here -----
Renewal / Membership Form,

I would like to join ERAS

OR

Please renew my ERAS membership for 2018 (due Jan 2018)

Name I enclose cheque for **£15 single / £20 family/ £5 fulltime student**

Address

.....

Email

Telephone.....

Please make cheque payable to ERAS & return to membership secretary Colin Parr, 32 Woodgate Rd, Hull HU5 5AH



Rainbow over FFWAP (see article page 7), with thanks to Alison Spencer *Photo: © Bill Watts*
Two of the three trenches opened at the FFWAP 1 site near Fridaythorpe, can be seen in the background



FFWAP 1 excavation showing the three trenches open in September 2017. *Photo: © Phil Haken*
Phil Haken is Chairman of the Roman Roads Research Association (partners with FFWAP on FFWAP 1 sitework)