

ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, No. 90 SEPTEMBER 2018



ERAS members walking the conserved Roman town walls at Caerwent, in Wales on this year's summer trip.

Photo: K. Dennett

*Local News ~ Wales Trip ~ Coring at Catwick ~ Data Protection ~ Kipling House Farm
Burton Constable Surveys ~ Elmswell DigVentures ~ Book Reviews ~ Events ~ Diary*

Contents

<i>Local News</i>	3
<i>ERAS trip to Wales</i>	4
<i>PLEASE RETURN THE FORM WE SENT YOU!</i>	6
<i>Liquid Break for Field Studies</i>	6
<i>ERAS at Burton Constable</i>	7
<i>Coring at Catwick Quarry</i>	7
<i>Into the Melting Pot, Food for Thought</i>	8
<i>DigVentures, CITiZAN, Kipling House Farm</i>	8
<i>Events for your Diary</i>	9
<i>Book Review</i>	10
<i>ERAS Diary</i>	11
<i>Photos: Little Catwick and Hull Pub Tour</i>	12

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

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 . . .

Errata

I am grateful to Pete Wilson for pointing out a couple of errors in the last newsletter. The FFWAP photographs, were credited to Phil Haken whereas it should have been MIKE Haken. I had already changed about half the newsletters as I noticed my error whilst enveloping them. Secondly, I had referred to Malton Archaeological Practice, whereas it should have been MAP Archaeological Practice. Many apologies.

ERAS Lecture Venue Change

Please note this year's lectures will be in **LT2 lecture theatre** which is across the other side of the 'bridge' in Wilberforce Building.

No Fee increase

After much analysis of our expenditure and our reserves policy, the committee has decided not to increase the membership fees, although this will no doubt have to happen at some point. However we are increasing the charge for attendance by **non-members** at our lectures from £1 to £2 -

Dr. Yvonne Innal

We were sorry to have to say goodbye to Yvonne, who went back to Australia this summer. I always found Yvonne most helpful, and courteous in dealing with any enquiries. Hope she'll be back.

Archaeology magazines available

Earlier this year we sadly lost one of our long-term members, John Sanderson. His family kindly donated his archaeological book collection and his collection of archaeological magazines to us. The books have joined our other donated books, available for sale to members, but we feel the magazines should stay together. One collection comprises every issue of *Current Archaeology* from No. 149, Sept 1996 to No. 333, Dec 2017. The other collection comprises every issue of *Current World Archaeology*, from No. 1, to No. 86, Dec 2017. All but the last few issues are bound in CA/CWA folders. If any member is interested in having this collection, please talk to one of the committee members. In return, any contribution to the book fund would be appreciated.

Renewals for 2019 are due in January

If you want to renew your membership, in January and do not pay by standing order, you can send your annual fee to Colin Parr using the form on the back page. (It makes the accounts more complicated if you pay **before** January, so we prefer you to wait).

Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme

Nicky Wilson, of the Environment Agency, tells us that if you would like to see the finds from archaeological work associated with the above project, which involves excavation in the Welwick and Skeffling area of Holderness, you can register with the Environment Agency, who will notify you when a Finds Day has been arranged. The project is part of a scheme to re-align the north coast of the river Humber, to provide new flood defences and create extensive areas of new wildlife habitat.

You can register, using the title 'in situ finds' at Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk

Field Studies

The group is working on sorting and labelling thousands of pottery sherds, all rejects from a Roman kiln at Holme on Spalding Moor. The finds distribution pattern seemed to show that these had been thrown in an arc around the kiln, probably from many firings. We realise that some people might have had quite enough of working on pottery so there are plans for more variety in Field Studies. Meetings - 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 on coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk

Tophill Low Reservoir

In June, along with other organisations, we took part in a popular open day at Tophill, where there was much interest in our artefacts and activities.

Rod Mackey Prize for Archaeology

The Rod Mackey Prize has been set up by ERAS and awards £100 annually to the Hull University student who gains the highest mark for their fieldwork project in the 2nd year of the archaeology degree course. This is a 4000 word report reflecting on the three week excavation experience they undertook in the summer after the first year and it was felt fitting that the prize should be awarded for practical fieldwork as well as academic work. In this inaugural year it was awarded to Liam Nendick and even more fittingly he is a local student. His report featured the excavations at Faxfleet and focussed on Trench 16, a trench that was investigating a corner of a Medieval building, but that was continually expanding as the project director had placed it in the wrong place!

Many thanks to Dr Helen Fenwick for the above piece. Liam has already written to thank ERAS and we hope to hear more about his project in the next newsletter

Editor

ERAS Trip to South Wales

The Beaufort hotel, an old coaching inn, in Chepstow turned out to be a quirky place, perhaps a little down at heel on the accommodation front, but with excellent food, and a real warmth of welcome and service from the staff. I am sure it wasn't our fault that the barman left unexpectedly on our first day, resulting in chaos on the drinks pricing and a few free drinks for some of us.

Worcester Cathedral, mainly included as a place to break our journey on the first day, was a real gem, with charming gardens, wonderful modern tapestry work and altercloths embroidered in jewel colours, Victorian stained glass windows and a well-lit Medieval crypt. We also saw the tomb of King John (d.1216) in the quire, and the tomb of Prince Arthur (d.1502) in its own atmospheric chantry, to one side of the high altar. For most of us lunch in the cathedral's excellent café took priority over further exploration.

Day two started with a visit to the Roman town of Caerwent (also seen on a previous ERAS trip, too many years ago). It was slightly scary to witness the group tottering about on top of the Roman walls but thankfully nobody fell down and organiser Valerie was not obliged to carry out her avowed Health and Safety policy of pretending she was not with us. We were surprised at the good condition and the extent of the walled area. Before moving on to Hereford, we also had time for a quick look at the Roman remains of houses, workshops and a temple, all conserved in the open, within the modern village.

Hereford Cathedral houses the Mappa Mundi – the largest surviving complete Medieval world map, which was displayed next to the famous chained library with manuscripts dating to the 8th century and was the main reason for our visit.



Jackie Lukes, Valerie Fairhurst and Angela Gowland with composer Edward Elgar admiring the exterior of Hereford Cathedral.

Some of us also listened to rehearsals for the national children's *i singpop* concert which was to be performed that evening. The cathedral's traditional links with music include manuscripts and artefacts associated with composer Edward Elgar, whose statue is in the grounds. On our return journey, the coach followed the picturesque meandering route of the River Wye, for a short visit to Tintern Abbey.

Day three was to be a busy day...

Not many coach trips could have been delayed by a temporary road closure in Chepstow caused by three men with a lorry and a sack barrow removing a huge safe from the side door of a house on a steep and narrow back street. We did speculate as to whether we were witnessing something dodgy, but then someone spotted that the house had formerly been a NatWest Bank.



Roman amphitheatre at Caerleon. Photo, V. Fairhurst

When we eventually got to Caerleon Roman Fortress Baths, we were entranced by the sound and lighting effects of the ghostly swimmers in the long narrow swimming bath ...a swish and swirl of the 'water' and they were gone. This unusual long swimming bath was adjacent to the more usual small heated bath complex. In the nearby museum, we could easily have spent much more time enjoying the displays, including the many lost jewellery items excavated from the baths area. Some people also did a quick dash to see the amphitheatre but it was then on to Ogmere Castle – a pretty ruin in its verdant riverside setting, with stepping stones and grazing ponies, but mainly memorable for the local pub's giant lunchtime ham sarnies and chips.

In the afternoon, our driver managed, with some difficulty, but lots of good cheer, to manoeuvre the coach down the narrow lane leading to Tinkinswood Neolithic burial chamber, where we walked across the field to inspect the remains at close-quarters.



The tomb, (above, photo K & J Parker) dates back 6000 years and held the remains of more than 50 people when its covering mound was excavated in 1914. At 15 x 24ft, the capping stone is one of the largest in Britain and seemingly not sourced from a nearby quarry, as had formerly been assumed. A supporting pillar has been added after excavation and the external revetment walls have been reconstructed in herringbone stonework, to distinguish it from the original. More recent excavation has also revealed evidence for prolonged Bronze Age ceremonial activity on the site, close to the Neolithic tomb.

Chepstow Castle's spectacular position overlooking the River Wye (right) close to the Severn estuary meant it was well worth the effort of making a short visit at the end of a long and tiring third day. It is thought that the Great Tower, the oldest structure, which includes recycled Roman tiles from Caerwent, was commissioned by William the Conqueror. The Castle doors have been dendro-dated to 1190 making them the oldest castle doors in Europe (unless, of course, they were made later from old timbers).

On the last day, we visited Bristol and the SS Great Britain, Brunel's famous iron ship, designed for the Bristol to New York passenger trade. The ship, which was wrecked due to a navigation error was subsequently rescued and restored. An innovation in its time, it had both steam engines and sails, thus was able to sail to a timetable, in a more economical manner. Being below decks, peering into the tiny crowded cabins furnished with personal items, diaries and sketches gave a real feeling of what it must have been like to be at sea and I could swear the thing was moving, but apparently not. It was firmly fixed in a dry dock, with a four inch depth of surrounding water giving the effect of a real dock. The reconstructed engines, (fake, but impressively done) were switched on for a short while.



We were able to sit in the impressively swanky dining room, where even the carpet design is accurate to the original. All this has, of course, been reconstructed from the original plans, but has been done so well that there is real atmosphere. The kitchen which supplied the banquets for first class passengers was relatively small but the poor passengers travelling in steerage had to buy their own food from a tiny meagrely stocked galley, supplying mostly broth and ships biscuits plus whatever was left over from the first class kitchen. The rusting iron hull and gigantic propeller could be inspected from a walkway, beneath the artificial skin of water. This project is a good example of how to combine heritage and commerce – you can get married on the ship and have your reception in the grand dining room, yet all the detailed research, maritime history etc is also available and is very well displayed. If you are in the area, the site is certainly worth visiting and for us, it rounded off an excellent weekend

Once again Acklams were exemplary. Our cheerful, courteous and endlessly patient driver, Patrick, managed to get the coach round some awkward corners and always took good care of us. Thanks also to organiser Valerie Fairhurst. We bought her some theatre vouchers for East Riding Theatre, with the money collected for her, as thanks.
Editor

YES, THIS MEANS YOU!

You might think that because you are a long-term member of ERAS, you need not return the form we sent you earlier this year, about the new Data Protection laws.

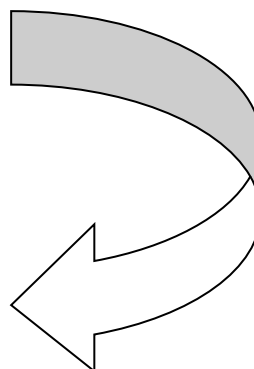
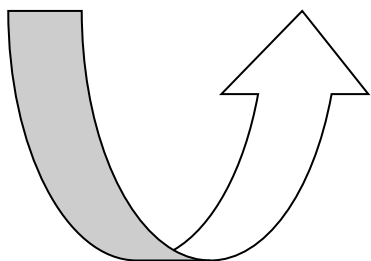
If you want to get emails, letters or telephone reminders about excavations, trips, etc, YOU DO NEED TO RETURN THE FORM – either the printed version or the email version.

New laws mean that before we are allowed to send you anything **extra**, apart from the newsletter and the free volume, you have to agree, in writing. (The newsletter and the free volume are OK as they are part of your membership contract with us)

By ticking the appropriate boxes, you can give us legal permission to contact you, in various ways, but please **be consistent** in what you ask for. Some people have given their email address and phone etc, **yet have failed to tick the boxes to grant us permission to contact them by these methods!**

The new law has caused confusion and there will undoubtedly be a test case in the courts before too long. We do not want to be subject to any complaints as the subsequent legal checking process involved is truly horrendous and exhaustive.

If you need another form or if you don't know whether or not you have returned it, contact Colin Parr (see page 2)



Liquid Break for Field Studies

On Wednesday 1 August, our members had a break from pot marking in Beverley for a guided tour with friend of the Society, Paul Schofield. Paul is an experienced, knowledgeable and charismatic guide and there is little about The Old Town we didn't cover when we toured the town with him in July 2017. Therefore, a warm August evening was the perfect time to discover the Old Town pubs of Hull whilst keeping suitably hydrated. We met at The Minerva (see photo on back cover) and spent a very sociable 30 minutes outside taking in the surroundings, enjoying a drink – and interpreting the Hull dialect quotes on the tables outside. We then embarked on our tour around the Old Town, but also discovering the history and stories behind the pubs which still exist – and of those that are sadly no longer part of the Old Town landscape. All that talking is clearly thirsty work so we stopped for a drink in The George Hotel..... followed by a further drink in The Old White Hart..... which led naturally to a final drink in The New White Hart. All in all we learned a lot – none of which we could remember by the end of the night!!! Paul is a freelance guide and is available for many different tour bookings, covering Hull & Beverley. He can be contacted via his facebook page. His website link is <http://www.tourhull.com/>

Angela Fawcett

Orkney's Neolithic 'Tomb of the Otters' is Up For Sale

Having just come back from a week in Orkney where we went inside this Neolithic chambered tomb in S. Ronaldsay, I was surprised to hear that the land including the scheduled tomb and a new (and very good) Bistro is up for sale. We were not impressed by the patter of the guide, which was decidedly anti-archaeologist, nor by the landowner's dismissive and critical attitude towards the research capability of UK Universities. How sad that this attitude has somehow been allowed to develop.

Kate Dennett

ERAS at Burton Constable

In July, a small team of ERAS volunteers lead by Richard Coates returned to Burton Constable Hall with the aim of augmenting results and information from the resistivity surveys conducted during last year's Festival of Archaeology. The estate's tour guides already include some of our results from last year in their guided tours of the gardens.

This year we used our resistivity meter to carry out electrical imaging surveys, known as pseudo-sections, in the east garden (the main visitor driveway) in an attempt to confirm the location of a pair of gatehouses which originally stood either side of the grand approach to the hall. Using fixed probes arranged in a line across prospective features in what is known as a Wenner configuration, a series of 57 readings was taken along the traverse of probes. Using this configuration, features can be identified down to a depth of three metres. Three sections were undertaken, two across what we believe to be the foundations of the Tudor gatehouse towers and one across the area where we believe the north-south part of the moat ran. The team were initially worried that the dry conditions would affect the readings, however initial results look promising, with new features showing on the moat section.

In addition, a gridded survey was carried out on the west side of the former north garden, close to the house. In this area, there was originally a formal garden and large greenhouse, which disappeared as part of the landscaping by Lancelot Capability Brown. Using ERAS's new resistivity meter, on an area 20m x 40m, the team hoped to better the results obtained last year, especially since many physical obstacles which previously hampered surveying, have now been removed. This year we were able to use the greater depth capability of our new four probe meter to simultaneously take readings at 0.5m, 1.0m and 1.5m depths across a 20m wide strip of the garden. Again the dry conditions were a concern, but the initial analysis looks promising and final results are to be published in a detailed report to the owners of the hall and at a later date, in the ERAS newsletter.

Volunteers also manned our hands-on archaeology stall set up adjacent to the survey areas and thanks go to all ERAS members who helped out with this. We are always looking for more helpers at these events and are very willing to train anyone who would like to have a go, at either surveying or chatting to members of the public about ERAS and archaeology in general. Most of our visitors, especially the children, are usually quite fascinated

by the artefacts we have on show and want to know more. We have crib sheets for you, with all the answers, so you don't need to know everything.

The above piece was edited from articles written by Colin Parr and Richard Coates.

Editor.

Coring at Little Catwick Quarry

Richard Coates and John Carrott

Recently, several members had the opportunity to have practical training in the use of our hand coring equipment (see photo, back cover). The training took place at Little Catwick Quarry on the area currently being excavated by commercial company East Riding Archaeology (ERA) on features to the west and south of a Bronze Age hengi-form monument excavated by ERA in 2017.

Under the guidance of John Carrott of Palaeoecology Research Services (PRS) a series of cores were made across a shallow depression and along a sinuous gully/channel. The aim was to test the theory that these features may have held water in the past. The sediments at the site are, in the main, free draining sand and gravel, therefore to prove the theory, the coring was an attempt to determine the presence of clay or other impermeable layers. In total, four cores were excavated to depths between c. 0.90m and c1.95m below ground surface. The results are given below.

Detailed profiling of the underlying deposits was beyond the scope of this exercise but its results were rewarding, as deposits which would have allowed surface water features to develop were indeed encountered. Two of the four cores, one within the shallow depression and one within the sinuous gully/channel, encountered clay at depths of c.1.45-1.70m and c0.65-1.00m below ground level, respectively. A third core, located at the approximate centre of the shallow depression, could not be taken beyond c.1.75m as it encountered a very stony deposit which could not be hand-augered (despite valiant efforts to do so). This core recovered gravelly sand throughout but this did become markedly wetter from around 1.30m and progressively more so to its maximum depth. The fourth core was located in a possible northward branch of the sinuous gully/channel at its eastern end and was the least successful as stony ground blocked its progress at c.0.9m. This again encountered gravelly sands throughout but also became significantly wetter with depth, starting from c.0.60m.

In addition to the coring, members were able to examine a number of finds from the excavation of

the hengi-form monument, and surrounding area, brought along by Sophie Tibbles from ERA. Many thanks to all at ERA for their hospitality and for permitting access to the Little Catwick excavations and to John Carrott for his specialist guidance.

DigVentures.com

If you don't look at our website, you might not know about DigVentures, an organisation with Heritage Lottery Fund backing. It runs excavations on a commercial basis, charging £165 per day to take part. There are various 'offers' according to how long you might want to dig, how much training you might need and whether you bring a friend. This year they again have a site open at Elmswell Farm, Driffield, where there is evidence of Iron Age and RB presence and a Medieval Village. Angela Fawcett negotiated for five free places for our members, for which there was a big demand. ERAS is carrying out geophysical surveys, on the site and trying to find the position of a possible tithe barn. You can follow progress on their website digventures.com/elmswell-farm

Kipling House Farm

As we go to press, Peter Halkon and James Lyall, with ERAS and YAHS members are excavating a site at Kipling House Farm, near Middleton-on-the-Wolds where geophysics and crop marks have shown a large ovoid enclosure, with central features, possibly (hopefully) a Bronze Age ring fort. ERAS has contributed £1500 towards the cost of the excavation, the present aim of which is to 'ground-truth' the geophysical survey, assess the monument's condition and obtain dating evidence.

CITiZAN Funding Bid

The Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network, known as CITiZAN, is preparing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to continue their work for another three years. ERAS has written a letter of support for the bid which would see CITiZAN doing more work in an area they are defining as Humberside. It would include the Humber Estuary, the E. Riding coast and parts of North Lincs. CITiZAN has already developed a phone app for recording archaeological features and has provided training for members of the public as well as working with established groups such as ERAS.

Food For Thought

Alison Spencer

Food for Thought: Investigating the Archaeology of the Wolds is a new initiative to be undertaken by York Archaeological Trust and sponsored by Historic England. The project was launched in July

at a seminar at Cass Hall, Driffield. The archaeology of the Yorkshire Wolds is outstanding in Britain for its quality and richness. Dr Melanie Giles of Manchester University and Neil Redfern of Historic England advised us of the current understanding of the archaeology of the Wolds. Participants contributed to a 'mood board' based on the Heritage of the Yorkshire Wolds. Prior suggestions for this ranged from a picture one may have taken or one of an art work that was loved, a leaflet for a special place, a poem, a song, fabric, food, flowers or leaves or something archaeological for the display. The project is at a formative stage and will be shaped by initiatives arising from local participants. Observation of local surroundings and the memories of Wolds residents are aspects that this initiative hopes to capture. Further details from Jen Jackson, YAT Community Engagement Manager. jjackson@yorkat.co.uk

01904 615504 / 07795909143

Into the Melting Pot

An innovative way of looking at whether food culture might have changed in the north of England, as the Vikings settled, was documented in an article by Steve Ashby in Issue 12 of *Northern Archaeology Today*, the newsletter of York Archaeological Trust. The project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) is using analysis of organic residues on pottery, as well as patterns of wear, sooting, chipping, burning etc, to establish how the pots were used and what the contents might have included. The project is using Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry, to analyse absorbed chemical residues and burnt-on food crusts are also being looked at, with many botanical species already identified. A large body of data has already been built up and pots from different areas are being examined to ensure there is no geographical bias. Together with a study of changes in vessel form, these data should help give a clearer picture of any possible changes from an Anglo-Saxon food culture to a Viking food culture. You can learn more about this fascinating study by going to www.meltingpot.site or follow on Twitter at @foodAD1000 also <http://ashbysteve.wixsite.com/vikings>

The Wonders of the ADS exhibition

ADS is the only accredited digital archaeology repository in the UK. Established for many years, having seen the possibilities of digital data storage, well in advance of others, a huge archive has been amassed and you can easily access this in a new, online 'exhibition' by going to their website.

Editor.

Events For Your Diary

Sept 8th and 15th, HODS (Heritage Open Days)

ERAS will be doing resistivity surveys at the site of Fishwick's Mill on Beverley Westwood, on Sept 8th. Help is needed if you have time.

September 14-16th, Conference, Hull Minster

Society for Church Archaeology.

Themes of war & commemoration in churches and churchyards, in recent times, Medieval & Early Modern period. There will also be a focus on the ecclesiastical expression of conquest and remembrance of the dead. Includes guided tour of Hull Minster on 14th followed by informal dinner at Ye Olde WhiteHarte. Full programme of lectures on 15th, followed by a walking tour of Hull led by Brian Ayers and conference dinner at the Minerva. Coach tour of E. Riding churches on 16th. Some student bursaries available to cover the £45 Saturday conference fee.

<http://churcharchaeology.org/conferences/conf18/conf18.html>

Until 7 Oct, Bodies of Evidence Exhibition, Durham

- How science unearthed Durham's dark secret. The story of how complex archaeological evidence was able to confirm the identities of Scotsmen who had died after being captured after the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. Surviving prisoners were later sent to work in coal mines or salt pans in the northeast and some were sent to help drain the Cambridgeshire Fens. Others were transported to Boston, New England to work in ironworks, quarries or timber forests. A very touching article in the CBA magazine, *British Archaeology* (No 161, July/August 2018) gives further fascinating details of the lives of this unfortunate group of young men and might tempt you to visit the exhibition at Palace Green Library, Durham. Tickets £7.50 but concessions available.

20 Oct. Green Fair, Cottingham Civic Hall

ERAS will have a stand at this event, which has a variety of environment/countryside related stalls.

27 Oct. Local History Bookfair. Hull Minster

Visit our bookstall and all the others, from 10am – 4 pm at the magnificently refurbished Hull Minster. There's always something of interest at this event, even if you have sworn you are not going to buy any more books. You will!

17th November, Exploring Roman York: looking back, looking forward.

<https://tinyurl.com/y72323yh>

30 November. CBA archaeology Day, University of York Dept. of Archaeology.

CBA's AGM, plus the 2018 Beatrice de Cardi Lecture by Prof. Nicky Milner on the Star Carr site. Also presentation of the Marsh Archaeology Awards and the chance to meet CBA staff and trustees and to sample local archaeology attractions. <https://tinyurl.com/y7lx73mn>

Historical Association (Hull Branch)

Sylvia Usher reports that she is unsure at the moment whether the usual venue, the Danish Church in the city centre, will be available for the coming season of HA talks, but you can contact her on usher@usher.karoo.co.uk if you are interested in any of the following events.

25 October. Women, War and Peace.

Dr. Lee Karen Stow discusses the impact of war on women. Venue to be confirmed.

17 January. Julian the Philosopher, The Last Emperor of the House of Constantine.

Emeritus Prof. James Booth. Joint meeting with the Classical Association at Hull University.

21 February. Henry VIII and the Men Who Made Him.

Dr. Tracy Borman, Chief Executive of the Heritage Education Trust and Joint Curator of the Royal Palaces. Venue to be confirmed.

21 March. Dragon – Women and Patriarchal Paranoia: Lilith, Lamia and Melusine.

Dr. Martin Arnold, emeritus Reader, University of Hull. Recent research on folk tales & received history on the perceived power of the dragon in world history.

DIG DEEP FOR ARCHAEOLOGY!

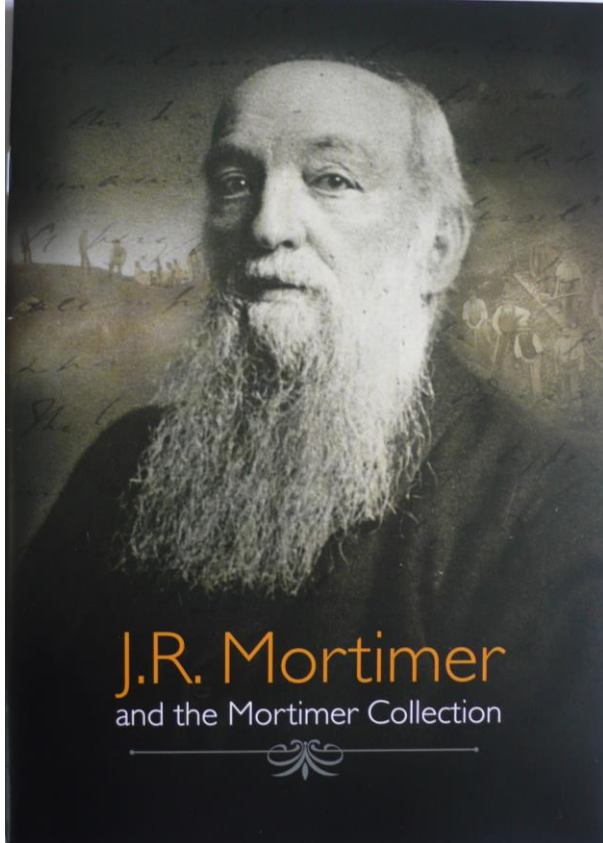
Mike Heyworth Director of CBA (the Council for British Archaeology) has used the July CBA newsletter in unprecedented way. He is appealing directly to members, for funding for archaeology, not for individual projects, but rather for the means to be able to fight subtle legislation changes which might weaken the planning laws relating to archaeology. There is major concern for the future of archaeology post-Brexit. CBA is determined to fight for archaeology, in view of fears that opportunities to undertake archaeological work in connection with planning procedures may soon be far more restricted. Research funding may also fall dramatically. One of the best ways you can help is by joining CBA and by making your voice heard (although this is only my personal view and has not necessarily been put forward by committee). *Ed*

Book Reviews

JR Mortimer and the Mortimer Collection

Published by and available from Hull & East Riding Museum on behalf of Hull Culture & Leisure Ltd. 2017

Paperback, in colour, 29pp, £7.50



This charming little book published with Arts Council Funding as part of the Mortimer 100 Project, casts light on the character and mindset of much respected East Yorkshire antiquarian John Mortimer. It shows some of his records and letters as suitably sepia-printed illustrations, together with many previously unseen sepia photographs of the original excavations and artefacts. It also shows some of Agnes Mortimer's delicate watercolour illustrations. The book charts the background and journey of the collection from its home in Driffield to Hull and East Riding Museum in Hull. Perhaps a couple of full colour photos of the fresh green Yorkshire Wolds would have given a little sparkle and lift to the publication. It understandably focuses on Mortimer himself, of course, but more background information could have been included. Just a few sentences about what a barrow actually is, plus how and when the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods fitted in, would have been a useful addition. However at £7.50, it is good value and would make a very acceptable gift for an enthusiast or act as an introduction to local archaeology for a beginner.

Germany. Memories of a Nation

Neil MacGregor. Penguin Books, 2016

Paperback, 598pp, with 8 coloured maps and numerous illustrations and photographs in colour and black/white.

Anyone who listened to BBC4's iconic *History of the World in 100 Objects* programmes will (love it or hate it) have Neil MacGregor's mesmeric voice fixed in their minds forever. Whilst reading this book on the wider history and culture of Germany, I kept hearing MacGregor's voice doing the reading for me. He links objects, images and buildings with their wider context and always gives you the means to relate back to the historic facts, by quoting page or chapter numbers and illustration or map numbers. Although this is a history book rather than an archaeology book, it is very readable and deals with the problem of the ever shifting boundaries, over the past 500 years of what we now know as Germany. It deals with the art and the craft and the technology, the power struggles and the landscape, the literature, the religion and the coinage and inevitably the 20th century. But it deals with all this, and much more, in such a way that one finds oneself relating it all to the archaeological sphere. MacGregor, in quite a matter-of-fact way, really makes you think about how and why things change, the world over. He was Director of the British Museum from 2002 to 2015 and before that, was Director of the National Gallery, London. He imparts his vast knowledge and appreciation of culture with such lightness of touch, that it is a pleasure to read and not a heavy learning experience. But I did learn a huge amount from this volume. My only criticism is that the print in the paperback version I bought, is rather small and grey and I struggled slightly to read it in anything less than full daylight.

Star Carr 1: A Persistent Place in a Changing World. £46.36, 407 pp Hard back.

Star Carr 2: Studies in Technology, Subsistence & Environment. £62.99, 600pp Hard back

Edited by Nicky Milner, Chantal Conneller & Barry Taylor. White Rose University Press.

I cannot call this a book review, as I have not read the Star Carr volumes, but they are highly acclaimed by Mike Pitts, editor of *British Archaeology* and that is good enough for me and I feel we should support this wonderful local Mesolithic site. The printed volumes are expensive, but are available **free in digital form**, and according to BA nearly a thousand were downloaded in the first three days.

<https://universitypress.whiterose.ac.uk>

Kate Dennett

ERAS Diary 2018 - 2019

Wed 5 Sept	Field Studies meeting
Wed 19 Sept	Lecture meeting - Ken Steedman (HFA) & Paula Ware (MAP) A round-up of recent work in the region
Wed 3 Oct	Field Studies meeting
Wed 17 Oct	Lecture meeting – Tony Hunt The Utilisation of Drones for Aerial Mapping in an Archaeological Context.
Wed 7 Nov	Field Studies meeting
Wed 21 Nov	Lecture meeting – Dr Melanie Giles Wider Connections? Women, mobility and power in the Iron Age of East Yorkshire
Wed 5 Dec	Field Studies meeting
Wed 19 Dec	Lecture meeting – Gav Robinson, Grim: The archaeology of Thorpe Park, Leeds
Wed 16 Jan	Lecture meeting, Dr David Petts. Barracks, Baths & Belief: recent work at Roman Binchester
Wed 6 Feb	Field Studies meeting
Wed 20 Feb	Lecture meeting – Prof. Julian Richards Beyond the Winter Camps: new evidence for the Viking Great Army in the East Riding
Wed 6 Mar	Field Studies meeting
Wed 20 Mar	Lecture meeting – Chris Caswell Findings from the Dig Ventures Elmswell Project
Wed 3 Apr	Field Studies meeting
Wed 17 Apr	AGM at 7pm, followed by Lecture by Dr Mike Nevell. Excavating Engels: recent archaeological evidence for 19 th c industrial housing in Manchester and Salford.

All lectures are at 7.30 pm at the University of Hull, Cottingham Rd. Hull, **NB now in Wilberforce Building's LT2 lecture theatre**. Non-members welcome (£2 donation). Field Studies meetings are at 7.30, St Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley on the first Weds of each month. Contact Graham on 07815 088573 or Richard on coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk

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

☐ I would like to join ERAS **OR** ☐ Please renew my ERAS membership for 2019 (due Jan 2019)

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

Address

.....

EmailTelephone.....

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



John Carrott demonstrating coring techniques at a sand quarry near Catwick, E. Yorks. Photo supplied by John Tibbles



Field Studies members enjoying a tour of Hull's Old Town Pubs.

Photo: Angela Fawcett