

# *ERAS News*

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EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

No. 97 March 2022

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*Details of a bread oven inserted into the wall of the former kitchen of a farmhouse at Bishop Burton.*

*Photo: EDAS*

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*Local News ~ AGM ~ Subscription Increase ~ Book Page ~ Bread Oven ~ Stonehenge Exhibition~ Archaeology in Ukraine ~ Virtual Lecture Protocols~ Gravestones at Wressle*

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Comments or contributions are always welcome.

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To join or renew membership see form on last page, or go to the website.

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

**[www.eras.org.uk](http://www.eras.org.uk)**

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## ***ERAS LOCAL NEWS . . .***

### ***Victoria Fountain Fund Appeal***

Anyone who has lived in Hull will probably know the distinctive 'Avenues' area, with its Victorian fountains gracing Westbourne and Park Avenues. There were originally six fountains in the area. A long running appeal to raise funds for a new working fountain to replace the one originally installed at the junction of Victoria Avenue and Salisbury Street, and removed in the 1920s, has recently achieved its target after a last minute crowd funding effort led by the redoubtable Hilary Byers.

The cast iron structure has already been made, but further funding will still be needed for maintenance so if you have fond memories of the Avenues area with its distinctive architecture and you would like to make an individual donation to the cause, that would be most gratefully received, however small. To ask about donating you can phone 01482 445915 or email

[victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk)

ERAS was informally approached for a contribution to this project, but after consideration, the committee decided that this cause did not fit with our funding criteria.

### ***What does your committee do?***

Apart from the obvious tasks such as arranging speakers, managing the finances, keeping membership records, running the Field Study Group, maintaining the website and marketing the society, the committee also deals with applications for funding. Our only income nowadays comes from our membership fees and from profits made by selling donated books, which relies on the excellent work of ERAS members. European funding which allowed us to buy so much equipment under the 'LEADER' project is no longer available. We receive requests to fund various projects and each application has to be given due consideration after the applicant has submitted our standard grant application form. Each application must be considered on its own merit, comply with our constitution and the Charity commission guidelines to use ERAS's money for public benefit and to advance archaeological research in East Yorkshire.

In terms of committee work, keeping up with our legal responsibilities and Charity Commission standards is another issue to be considered and dealing with enquiries from the general public and organisations also takes some time. To thrive as a group we need a constant flow of new blood onto the committee, whilst balancing that with more experienced members to provide continuity.

**Please consider joining the committee, or nominating someone who you think would be good at helping to run this most excellent society. We are really proud to have been going for 60 years.**

### ***Live lectures***

About 20-25 people attended the first live, in person lectures since lockdown, in January and in February 2022, with a further 30-40 tuning in online. Numbers will hopefully continue to increase until we are back to the sociable meetings we used to have pre-covid. Once the numbers attending increases, we will be bringing back the second hand book stall and magazine loan scheme which was so popular

### ***Hull Maritime Museum***

A 'swimming whale' will apparently feature in the new displays planned for Hull's refurbished Maritime Museum. Those of you who haven't visited Hull for many years might be interested to know that the old Town Docks building is being thoroughly renovated. The museum collection is currently in storage elsewhere and the distinctive triple domed building is being opened up to make the most of its best features. There will be a new glass roof to allow light into the three storey atrium and one of the domed rooms will be accessible to give a view over the whole city and river. (You might remember one of the domed rooms being used as a café in the 1980s?).

### ***Field Studies Group***

The group, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month, in Holmechurch Lane, Beverley, is about half way through classifying the huge collection of pottery waste from a Roman kiln near Holme on Spalding Moor, but is ready to move on to some different outdoor activities, as the weather improves. Please let group leader Nathan (or any of the committee) know if there are any archaeological skills you would like to learn or

any local sites you would like to visit. These are informal evening meetings where you get to handle artefacts, or visit local places of interest. If there is enough interest you might be able to learn how to do site section and plan drawings to scale, in preparation for volunteering on a site. You don't need any experience and are welcome to come along and join in. *Editor*

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**EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**7:00pm WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL 2022**  
**WILBERFORCE BUILDING UNIVERSITY OF HULL**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Secretary's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
- 6. Proposal for a £5 increase across all categories of ERAS membership fee, as from Jan. 2023**
- 7. Election of Officers**

Committee Nominations are:-

Chair:	<b>Vacant</b>
Vice Chair:	Fiona Wilson
Secretary:	Richard Coates
Treasurer:	Colin Parr
Programme secretary:	Richard Coates
Editor:	Dave Evans
Marketing and Social Media Officer:	<b>Vacant</b>
Field Studies Officer:	Nathan Berry
Records Officer:	John Deverell

Any other nominations for the above posts are welcome and should be sent to the secretary in writing no later than 10th April 2022 to Richard Coates. 8, Chestnut Avenue Beverley HU17 9RB. ([coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk](mailto:coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk))

Members wishing to nominate someone should seek their agreement before doing so.

#### **8. Election of Five Ordinary Committee Members**

Ordinary Members who are willing and eligible to stand for elections are :-

Emma Samuel; Graham Myers; Matthew Reeves; Stuart Leadley; Valerie Fairhurst.

Additional nominations are welcome and may be made in advance or from the floor of the meeting. Members wishing to nominate someone should seek their agreement before doing so.

In the event that there are more nominations than places, then an election will be held.

Kate Dennett is willing to continue as Newsletter Editor.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

The meeting will be followed at 7:30 pm by a lecture by Lauren McIntyre. The A63 project, Castle Street, Hull

## ***Subscriptions - Proposal for an Increase in 2023***

***Colin Parr, Treasurer***

Early in 2020 I wrote an article in our March ERAS News proposing an increase of our ERAS subscriptions by £5.00 p.a. across all three membership classes. The proposal was due to be voted on at the April AGM - then the world changed. We were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 then, in 2021 we were restricted to holding our AGM by post. The Committee considered it unreasonable to ask for an increase in subscriptions last year when so many of our activities had been suspended, however, hopefully this year it looks like life has the prospect of returning to some sort of normality. To that end I have updated the 2020 proposal for consideration at this year's April AGM.

### **The Amended Proposal.**

Since 2015 our ERAS accumulated fund, the value of all our assets, has fallen from around £28,000.00 to a level as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 of £25,296.00. On the face of it, not a huge drop, but if we subtract our agreed outstanding commitments of £3,000 to produce the Easington excavation's pottery report, £4,500 for the publication of Volume 18 and £1,500 ringfenced monies for the completion of outstanding projects, this left us at the beginning of 2021 with a 'reserve' of £16,296.00.

Our 2021 accounts are yet to be approved but are showing an increase of income over expenditure of around £2,000 which raises our reserves; however, I think we can all agree that 2021 was not a typical year. Basically, over the past seven years our rising day to day running costs have drawn closer and closer to our income despite our efforts to minimise such things as postage and distribution costs, and efforts to increase publication and donated book sales, etc. In 2020 our income excluding publication grants was £4,113.06 whilst our general recurring cost amounted to £3,132.48 leaving us with just £1,632.46 to carry forward. Provisional figures for 2020 show similar levels of income and expenditure but it must be born in mind that during the last two years we have not had to pay out for room hire at either Hull University or St Nicholas's Church Hall.

Reasons why our funds are being depleted are many, but basically our income excluding grants and legacy donations has reduced, and our day to day running costs are steadily rising. Whilst our income from subscriptions has remained relatively stable at around £3,800 per annum, our other sources of income have reduced, for example falling interest rates – In 2007 we received £655 in interest pa., last year £1.93. Publishers Licence Fees, the copyright income from our publications, in 2007 was £77.00, last year it was nothing. This may not seem a lot, but over the years has gradually reduced our income funding. Our everyday running expenses however have risen substantially. Our lecture costs for instance rose from £742 in 2007 to £1,725 in 2019. Our insurance had risen from £354 in 2007 to £631 in 2019 although I have since changed our broker and reduced this figure to £284. Stationary, postage and printing cost pa, in general have more than doubled since 2007. The chart overleaf, illustrates the points.

Over the past five years, the Committee has strived to meet the aims of ERAS and, as a result we agreed to fund more local archaeological projects and publish more volumes of the East Riding Archaeologist at more frequent intervals. We have also invested in new equipment, primarily the Mk2 Resistivity Meter and four-probe frame. This investment resulted in a reduction of our reserves/balance. However, the Committee felt this was a good and appropriate use of ERAS funds. At the same time, we reviewed and reduced our Reserves policy as we recognised that our income and expenditure levels were an issue but felt it would be wrong to ask you, the members, for an increase in subscriptions whilst our funding levels were so much higher than our minimum reserve levels.

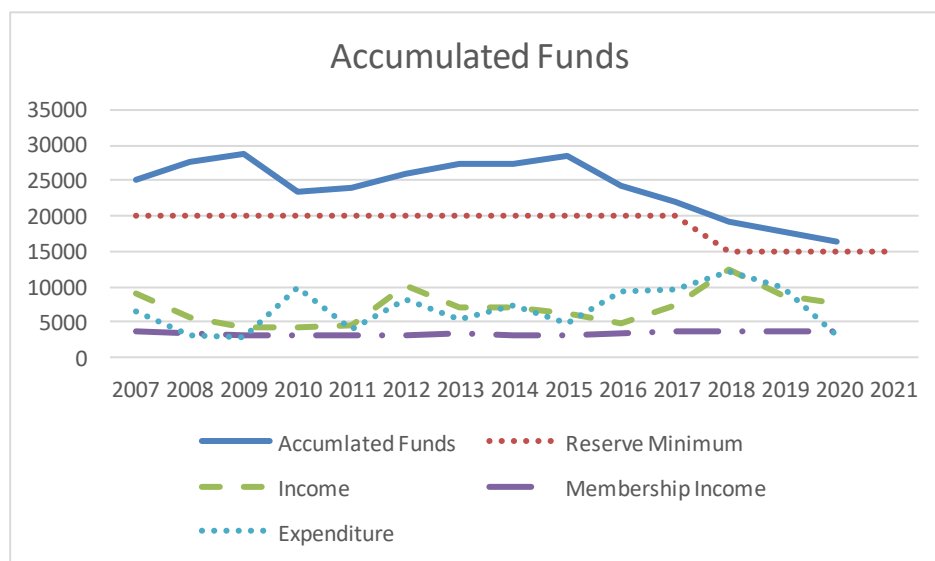
As a registered charity, ERAS must abide by an approved Reserves Policy which sets the minimum funding level required for the Society to function for at least two years without any additional income. This policy document must be approved by the Society's Trustees and be registered with the Charities Commission. Since 2004 our minimum reserve level was set at £20,000, however in 2018 we reviewed the policy and found that

due to the falling prices of, for example, publications printing and IT equipment, we could afford to lower our reserves limit range to £15,000 - £18,000. You can see the results of this in the chart.

Now, with our reserves down to £16,296 in 2020 (£18,344.98 provisionally for 2021) the committee is again recommending that member subscription fees should be raised by £5.00 across all membership classes with effect from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2023** to: -

<b>Single member</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>Family Member</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>£10.00</b>

This increase will allow ERAS to continue at its current level of activity hopefully for many years to come. In accordance with our ERAS Constitution, any increase in subscriptions must be approved by a vote at the A.G.M. in April. We hope that you will agree to this increase and will continue to support the Society into the future.



## ***Mystery of the Gravestones in the Rockery at Wressle***

ERAS members have been helping solve the mystery of multiple fragments of gravestones found as part of a rockery in a garden in the village of Wressle. Volunteers are to check if any names and dates can be pieced together and if these particular stones (from 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century) can be linked to parish records in the locality. The inscriptions on most older gravestones in English churchyards have already been recorded by volunteers of the Family History Society over the past fifty years or so and should be available.

The stone fragments at Wressle could have come from anywhere in the locale. In my younger days I worked on numerous archaeological monitoring jobs at churches in Yorkshire, and found that gravestones have not always been treated with respect by grave diggers or builders. In one churchyard, old grave stones which had fallen over, or possibly were discovered unexpectedly during grave digging, had been removed and re- installed upright at the periphery of the churchyard, but were placed so close together that it was impossible to read or do rubbings of the inscriptions. Another church had various pieces of masonry and gravestones incorporated into the fabric of the church porch, by the local builder who appeared to have a free hand in dealing with small scale alterations at the church. In some church yards, older gravestones have been laid flat, serving as pathways, but resulting in standing water, frost and tread-wear eroding away the inscriptions. When maintenance work on drains is carried out or during installation of toilet facilities in village churches, small gravestone fragments are often encountered and may sometimes be taken away as general building rubble, thus they could end up anywhere, depending on whether they are disposed of, or re-purposed by the builder.

It is quite common for sharp-eyed observers to see small human bones or bone fragments on the surface of flower beds in churchyards and caches of disarticulated human bones, reburied by grave diggers, are often

found during cemetery archaeological work. Disarticulated human bones encountered during small-scale churchyard monitoring work are either re-buried immediately by the archaeologist or handed over to the relevant cleric for reburial in a suitable plot in the cemetery. Since the inception of Health and Safety rules, many gravestones in civic cemeteries seem to be removed at the first sign of any tilting, in case they should fall and injure anyone, but it is not always clear if and where these stones are stored.

*Editor*

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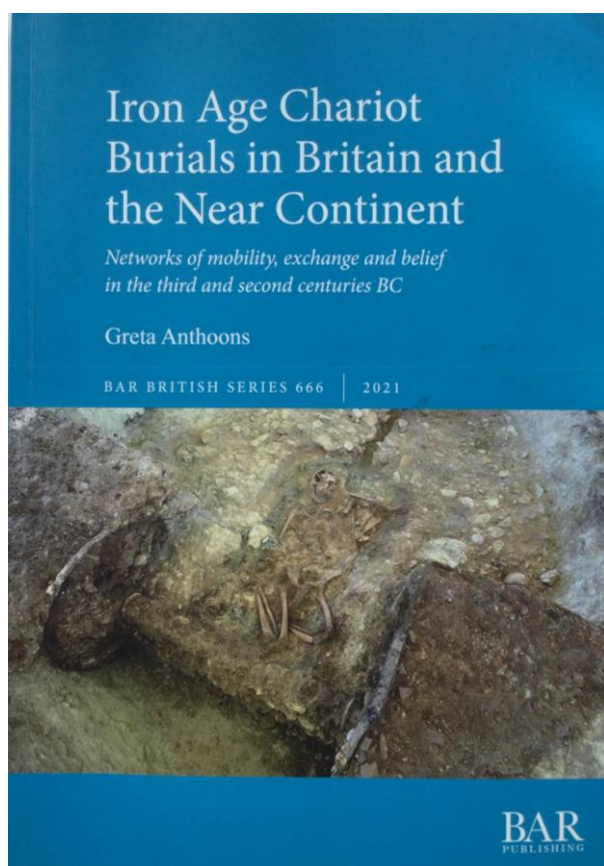
## ***Book Review***

### **Iron Age Chariot Burials in Britain and the Near Continent: networks of mobility exchange and belief in the third and second century BC**

**Greta Anthoons**

**BAR British Series 666 2021 pp264**

*Reviewed by Peter Halkon*



Written by Belgian Greta Anthoons, the book is based on her Bangor University PhD thesis and provides the most comprehensive catalogue of chariot burials yet compiled. It begins with an up-to-date account of the Arras Culture chariot burials in their wider context and continues to discuss chariot burials in the Middle Rhine-Moselle region of Germany, the Netherlands, the Aisne-Marne region of France, Luxembourg, the Paris region, Belgium, and Normandy. Each section is carefully constructed allowing comparison with the Arras examples. In terms of chronology, Anthoons identifies two main periods of chariot burial, in the fifth-fourth centuries BC focused on the Belgian Ardennes and Middle Rhine-Moselle and a later third to second century BC phase, particularly in the Paris region. Radiocarbon dating using Bayesian statistical analysis places the bulk of the eastern Yorkshire examples in the latter group.

Chariots burials are one of the most iconic aspects of the Iron Age in Britain. Apart from those found near Edinburgh and in Pembroke, they are clustered in eastern Yorkshire with an outlier at Ferry Fryston in West Yorkshire. The most spectacular were at Burnby Lane and The Mile, Pocklington. Remarkably both were buried with a pair of horses, at The Mile positioned as if pulling the remains of the upright and intact chariot. The crouched inhumation of a middle-aged male, lay on the remains of a highly decorated shield on the chariot base. The inclusion of horses is paralleled in the so-called King's Barrow, in a large cemetery excavated 1815-17 at Arras Farm, near Market Weighton, which gave its name to the Arras Culture. Its distinctive burials surrounded by square enclosures around a low mound, known as square barrows, are also concentrated in eastern Yorkshire.

Chariot burials are much more common on the near European continent, particularly in northern France and Belgium and into Germany and for many years archaeologists have tried to explain this connection, which is the major aim of this volume. The similarities between the Arras Culture and continent were originally thought to be the result of invasion or migration, which was subsequently disregarded, mainly based on the differences between the eastern Yorkshire chariot burials and continental examples. Most of the Eastern Yorkshire burials contained dismantled vehicles, with a crouched or flexed inhumation with its head to the north, whereas most continental chariots were buried intact with supine extended inhumations orientated east-west. This distinction was somewhat blurred by the recent excavation of intact chariots at Ferry Fryston and The Mile, Pocklington and older discoveries at Pexton Moor and Cawthorn Camps. Dismantled vehicles are also present on the continent. Although some eastern Yorkshire chariot burials appear spectacular, with elaborate terrets (rein rings) and linchpins decorated with coral, and swords in highly decorated copper-alloy sheaths, they seem somewhat impoverished compared with that from Warcq (French Ardennes) which included four harnessed horses and a chariot box embellished with gold leaf.

If invasion and migration are to be excluded as an explanation for the appearance of chariot burials, why are there so many in eastern Yorkshire? Anthoos argues that the Arras phenomenon is part of a wider trend of long-distance connections in the third century BC across near continental Europe, with ideas concerning ritual and burial transmitted through elite networks. Although some movement of people is possible, she suggests that the similarities between Arras and the continent would be even closer in the case of larger scale migration. Whereas the chariot burials of the Paris region most closely resemble those of Arras in date and technology, such as single hooped iron tyres shrunk onto the wheels, the Parisian examples are not generally surrounded by square enclosures. The Arras Culture square barrow cemeteries most closely resemble those of the Aisne-Marne region however here there are also subtle differences.

This is a very well researched, well written and nicely illustrated volume and is essential reading for all those interested in the archaeology of Iron Age Europe.

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## ***Digital Links to ERAS Lectures***

### ***Just have a go ...***

Although we love to see you in person, live, we are trying to encourage more people to use the technology available to view our monthly lectures on line, if they cannot attend in person. There is still some resistance to digital technology and we do not have email addresses for 25% of the membership. We need an email address to send you the link so please contact **Colin Parr** about this. If you are still hesitant about accessing the lectures online, Colin has shared a few useful tips –

The link should work for any smart phone, tablet or pc although iphone and ipad users have experienced difficulties. If you only wish to view the presentation while it is being broadcast then you do not need to have a device with a webcam or microphone.

The lectures will be broadcast by the University of Hull using the Microsoft Teams application. The organisers are Dr Helen Fenwick and Dr Peter Halkon.

You do not need to download the Microsoft Teams app but you can do so if you wish. When you click on the link, you will get options to either -

1. Download the Windows app,
2. Continue on this browser,
3. Open your Teams app

You can 'Continue on this browser' and it will open the Teams app without installing it. Follow the links, adding your name, when requested, to let others in the lecture know who is there.

These live lectures are for ERAS members only, so please do not share the link with others. The lecture meetings usually start at 7pm to allow time for members to log in, and to allow the organiser time to grant you entry, so please be patient.

At 7.30 you should **mute** your microphone by clicking on the microphone symbol on the task bar, so that the lecture can be broadcast without anyone hearing you.

You might find that turning off your camera (by clicking on the camera symbol on the task bar) might improve your reception or picture quality.

The organiser will then introduce the guest speaker's recorded lecture, after which there will be a live question and answer session.

To ask a question, click on the raise hand button symbol on your task bar and the organiser will permit access.

You should then **unmute** your microphone, ask your question and listen to the reply. Then please **mute** your microphone again.

If you wish to stay and chat to other members after the session is over, then you can **unmute** your microphone again until the session is automatically terminated at 9pm.

*(Editor - If all else fails, ask the children or grandchildren how to do it!)*

**NB, the April AGM at 7pm will not be live streamed.**

**To access previous lectures follow the links below.**

20 Oct. 2021, Dr Justine Bayley. Non ferrous metal working in Roman Britain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8tF23-evHY>

17 Nov. 2021, Chris Berendt. (Towton Battlefield Soc.) The Battle of Towton: what we know and what we think we know.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnGkCjvJhTk>

15 Dec. 2021, Mike Haken. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Roman Roads in East Yorkshire.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1QLMP4h9Lg>

These and many more can also be accessed through our website by selecting PUBLICATIONS and then Virtual Lectures.

*Editor*

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## ***The World of Stonehenge Exhibition at the British Museum***

***Lesley Jackson***

It felt a very long time since I last ventured into the British Museum so the newly opened World of Stonehenge exhibition made a wonderful welcome back. Despite the headline title the exhibition isn't confined to Stonehenge but includes artefacts from Northern Europe and covers a time period from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. Dramatic changes occurred during this period in terms of environment, society, culture and technology and the exhibition guides us through examples of this.

There are a number of finds from East Yorkshire on display. It is always good to see local artefacts – though the pedant would say that all artefacts are local to someone! One such was a display of chalk ‘drums’ dating to the Neolithic. These are chalk cylinders covered with elaborately carved geometric motifs. One ‘drum’ (below and right) was recently excavated near Burton Agnes in the burial of three children. It had three holes drilled into it, (possibly to represent those children?) and may have been a talisman to protect them in the afterlife. Alongside were a bone pin and a chalk ball which may have been a toy. It is similar to three drums found in nearby Folkton.



*Chalk drum from Burton Agnes, showing one of the three holes in the top. Photo, courtesy of Allen Archaeology*



*Chalk drum from Burton Agnes showing the carved pattern of concentric circles. Photo, courtesy of Allen Archaeology*

I had read about and seen photos of many of the objects but nothing compares to looking at an actual object. You can see so much more detail when looking at something in three dimensions as well as getting an appreciation of the size. Despite having read a number of accounts about the Nebra Sky Disc its dimensions had escaped me. I was expecting something that would fit in the palm of your hand so I was amazed to see it at a pizza size 32cm diameter.

The bronze disc was part of a hoard from Germany and is the earliest representation of the night sky to be found. Once black, the now green disc is decorated with gold symbols. It has 32 stars, including one star cluster thought to represent the Pleiades. There is a crescent moon and a circle which was thought to initially represent the full moon. The disc was later reworked with a more solar theme as the solar religions gained dominance. The circle became the sun and a solar boat and horizon markers were added. It is a very beautiful as well as symbolic object. Like the Neolithic stone monuments the disc relates to astronomical events but on a very different scale. Society had moved from the creation of large monuments which communities built and could be seen by everybody in the vicinity to precious and portable objects which were restricted to a priestly or ruling elite.

On the subject of precious and portable there were some wonderful gold objects. Large crescent shaped gold sheets, called *lunulae*, are found across north-west Europe. They were worn as collars. While the edges were decorated the central areas were left plain for maximum dazzle. Even more impressive was the Mold cape, from Wales. It was originally attached to a very elaborate textile garment and the gold cape fitted over the shoulders. It may not have been comfortable to wear but it would definitely have created a spectacle and reminded everyone how powerful and important you were. Favourites of mine were two tall cone-shaped hats made from a gold sheet and decorated with concentric rings, circles, solar wheels and star bursts. They are believed to be ceremonial hats worn by high ranking priests or priestesses. With the addition of a wide brim they could easily pass as hats for a very wealthy witch or wizard. Perhaps this is where such headgear originated from.



*The three (replica) chalk drums from Folkton, showing similar design characteristics to the drum from Burton Agnes. Photo, K. Dennett*

A polished stone axe is a work of art but the British Museum had assembled 90 such axe heads from all over Europe. From these they have made an incredible wall display. While stone axes have practical as well as symbolic ceremonial uses some other artefacts seem to be purely symbolic. Dating to around 3,000 BC are carved stone balls, most of which come from Scotland. They are highly decorated with spirals, concentric patterns and triangles. A lot of the work is in three dimensions rather than just being incised into the surface. The stone balls show a great variation in decoration and I can't imagine how long they would have taken to make. It was the effort and skill put into their creation that made them expensive and thus hugely desirable

objects. Various theories have been put forward about their use but perhaps they were always intended to be showy items – tokens of power or social identity.

As ever there is a shop at the exit to the exhibition. And yes, I succumbed to a Nebra Sky Disc Christmas ornament and a pair of Ring of Brodgar earrings! There is a large display of relevant books, a number of which were added to my wish list. A splendid well illustrated book accompanies the exhibition but it is large and heavy so I ordered my copy from the British Museum web site.

There was a lot to take in on one visit, both in terms of reading the information and looking at each exhibit in detail. A few benches allowed for time out to ponder what you'd seen or to just gaze at something for a while. I am planning a return visit in a few months' time and, having read the accompanying book, I am sure to get more out of a second visit. The exhibition runs until the 17<sup>th</sup> July and, unless you are a member of the British Museum, you have to book a timed ticket in advance. So get yourselves down to this must see exhibition – you won't be disappointed.

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### ***Still Fighting to Save the Archaeology Department at Sheffield University***

I was pleased to hear that Archaeology student Liam Hand was recently elected President of the Student Union at the University of Sheffield. Liam has promised to continue fighting to save the Archaeology Department at Sheffield, which incredibly, has been marked down for closure. Why is it that Universities appear not to value archaeology courses? The University of Hull is not taking on any more archaeology students, despite so many of its recent graduates working in archaeology. Although I must point out that the following views are entirely my own personal ones and not put forward on behalf of ERAS, I sometimes wonder whether CBA should be doing more to publicise, improve and champion the commercial career opportunities in archaeology and concentrating a little less on volunteering and public engagement. Just a thought ... . *Editor*

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### ***Self Guided Walks***

CITiZAN, the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network, held their annual conference in March this year, both 'live' in Liverpool Museum and online, with the wide-ranging title of 'Connecting Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate Change'. Some ERAS members will have previously joined coastal walks led by the CITiZAN team around Hull, on Cleethorpes beach or among the wartime beach defences near Bridlington, or have been involved in their coastal surveys. During periods of lockdown the guided tours have been curtailed, but CITiZAN has now developed a series of self-guided Low-Tide Trails, suitable for ages 12 and over. These are available to download, and include:

**Hull: Coastal Influence and Industry**- A virtual look at the archaeology and history of Hull's industrial heritage and coastal development.

**Cleethorpes: Beaches, Cliffs, Piers and Trees**- A virtual tour of the coastal resort of Cleethorpes and its long history of human activity.

**Flamborough: Lifeboats, Defence and Chalk Cliffs**- Take a virtual walk around the archaeology of Flamborough Head on the Yorkshire coast.

**Bridlington Seafront** - A guided tour of the archaeology and heritage of Bridlington's seafront

The CITiZAN project is drawing to a close, unless further funding can be obtained, but the CITiZAN app (downloadable from their website) will be monitored for 3 years after the end of the project. The app can be used to download coastal features, access data and the interactive coastal map, and add newly discovered features. Other resources are available via their website, including blogs and links to external sources.

Information available from: <https://www.citizen.org.uk>

*Valerie Fairhurst*

## ***CBA Day Conference*** ***2<sup>nd</sup> April in York***

It is good to see the CBA annual conference back, as a hybrid event. You can book to go in person or online via Zoom. The venue is the De Grey Lecture Theatre at York St John University. 10.30 – 4.30

Talks include -An early Neolithic Saltern, by Steve Sherlock.  
Since when did monasteries have round houses? John Buglass.  
Community archaeology in the Vale of York, John Kenny.  
Community engagement within a grant –funded scheme, Paul Gwilliam

To book go to  
<https://cba-yorkshire-archaeology-day-2022-hybrid.eventbrite.co.uk>

## ***History Association, Hull Branch***

This last lecture of the season may interest those who attended the ERAS Burton Constable lecture by Shaun Richardson.

**Thursday 12 May 2022 7.30pm at Nordic House (Danish Church) Osborne St, Hull. HU1 2PN**

William Constable: An Enlightened Gentleman. By Philippa Wood, curator at Burton Constable Hall, Skirlaugh, East Yorkshire.

If you are interested in this and other (mostly free) talks, please contact Sylvia Usher for details of how to join this group.

[usher@usher.karoo.co.uk](mailto:usher@usher.karoo.co.uk) 01482 448065

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## ***The War in Ukraine, or*** ***What's Mine is Mine,*** ***What's Yours is Mine***

***A Letter from Sweden***  
***By Prof. Malcolm Lillie***

I gave a talk on violence in prehistory soon after the Annexation of Crimea by Russian forces in February-March 2014 – it was entitled “What’s Mine is Mine, What’s Yours Is Mine” – it seemed an apt title at the time, on reflection its aptness has not diminished in the past 8 years. At the time of the annexation of Crimea, colleagues from the Institute of Archaeology in Kyiv who were working in Crimea, were forced to leave ongoing excavations and escape. Since this time a war has been ongoing in the east of Ukraine in the Donbass region. During this on-going stage of the conflict (up to the time of the current invasion) in excess of 13,000 people have been killed (according to United Nations estimates), although the reporting of this has of course lessened as the conflict dragged on.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 under the pretence of a “special military operation” in support of the self-proclaimed states of Donetsk and Luhansk, Vladimir Putin authorised a full scale invasion on the sovereign nation of Ukraine. Irrespective of narratives that seek to justify this aggression through the spectre of NATO expansionism, it is apparent that innocent civilians are being killed by Russian forces, and it is also apparent, unless you only listen to Russian state news outlets, that civilian infrastructure is being targeted. Furthermore, it is well established that the separatists in these ‘breakaway’ regions were being equipped with Russian

weaponry. There is no justification for this war, and no excuses that Vladimir Putin puts forward can absolve him of the war crimes that are being perpetrated because of his actions.

As an archaeologist who has researched Ukrainian prehistory for 30 years it is devastating to see what has been occurring in Ukraine since 2014. In relation to the current invasion, in a statement made on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Director General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay said “We must safeguard the cultural heritage in Ukraine, as a testimony of the past but also as a catalyst for peace and cohesion for the future, which the international community has a duty to protect and preserve” (see: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/endangered-heritage-ukraine-unesco-reinforces-protective-measures>). UNESCO is in contact with the Ukrainian authorities, relevant institutions, and cultural professionals in this respect. The only problem with this situation is that putting the “Blue Shield” emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict, in an effort to avoid deliberate or accidental damage, makes the assumption that the invasion force does not intend to remove Ukrainian cultural heritage and with it Ukrainian cultural identity. Or it assumes that a cruise missile will, on impact, not explode and send shrapnel outwards destroying or damaging everything in its path; recent evidence from western Ukraine would contradict this assumption.

Beyond the basics, colleagues in Ukraine inform me that at the start of the new stage of this conflict many staff at the various institutions joined the forces defending Ukraine. These staff are fighting to defend their way of life, their freedom, and their independence. These are the archaeologists, heritage professionals and teachers of Ukraine. As the death toll rises it is clear that many colleagues may not survive this war.

As with most countries, the cultural heritage of Ukraine is everywhere, not just in the World Heritage sites and Museums throughout Ukraine but also everywhere in the landscape. There are thousands of kurgans (anywhere from 50-100,000 of these burial mounds as a minimum estimate), with these dating from the Neolithic through to Middle Ages. These sites are located throughout the landscape, with many important sites in the southern steppe zone.

The kurgans are linked to the origins of the Indo-Europeans in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC, with the Proto-Indo-European homeland postulated as being in the Pontic Steppe to the North of the Black Sea. Expansion of the populations of the steppe in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium led to the dissemination of the Indo-European language groups throughout Europe and Asia (other hypotheses exist however). Recent genetic studies have added weight to the steppe hypothesis, and on-going research with colleagues in the USA, Ukraine and Russia is seeking to refine and define the genetic origins of the Yamna (Yamnaya) culture in an effort to more accurately pinpoint the origins of this culture, and perhaps even more precisely determine the genetic founder group or groups.

Recently the increased interest in Ukrainian prehistory has brought the Trypillia culture (Cucuteni-Trypillia) to the attention of archaeologists and the public alike. This culture extended from the Eastern Carpathians, in the west, and followed the forest-steppe zone north-eastwards to the Dnieper Valley – in the region of Kyiv. Massive settlement sites of this culture, termed mega-sites (the largest being *ca.* 320ha in area), such as Nebelivka, Talianki (Talyanki) and Maydanets contained hundreds or thousands of houses and could potentially have had population in the tens of thousands (although this maximalist view is debated). The main issue with this culture is the lack of detailed high-resolution fieldwalking and mapping of sites, and the lack of large-scale excavation. These sites are now under considerable threat, and many may not survive the current conflict.

Elsewhere in the Dnieper River system, the Dnieper Rapids region, the focus of much of my own research, has cemeteries dating from the Epipalaeolithic period at 10,200BC through to the Copper Age at 3000BC, and later. The majority of these cemeteries are termed Mariupol-type cemeteries. As this name might indicate, the eponymous cemetery of Mariupol is located in the southeast of Ukraine, a location that is now a modern centre for industry, and a location that is currently being destroyed by the Russian military (as attested by various news reports in recent weeks).

The archaeological resource of Ukraine is considerable, but in many respects it is an under-researched resource. There are quite literally tens of thousands of sites throughout Ukraine that remain to be studied. How long they remain preserved is open to question as much of this resource is unlikely to survive the bombardment that is ongoing. The potential issues around conflict and heritage are well-know – take for example the ancient city of Palmyra that was nearly totally destroyed by ISIS – ironically UNESCO, Russia, Poland and Italy are amongst the countries and institutions that pledged to aid Syria’s efforts at restoring this location. Other issues may

however be less apparent, but considerable; for instance, how long will it be before heritage professionals in Ukraine are able to come to terms with the devastation that has been inflicted on their country? How long will it take to determine the full effects and extend of destruction of the heritage resources of Ukraine?

As mentioned, many colleagues are currently fighting to defend Ukraine, while others have escaped to the west. How do they pick up the pieces of their own lives, let alone return to any semblance of normality? For my colleagues based in Kyiv and other major cities in Ukraine it is entirely feasible to imagine that it will take years to recover from this conflict. As with Palmyra it is likely to take a considerable amount of time for the full extent of the impacts to be determined and in many cases, as with Trypillia or kurgan sites, it is unlikely that the damage will be repairable.

Obviously, any efforts to preserve Ukraine's cultural heritage must be entered into, and this is of considerable importance for Ukrainian identity, but at this point in time we should not assume that the Russian military will be respecting and avoiding the thousands of sites located throughout the territory of Ukraine. We need to realise that as Putin's Russian war machine does not respect civilian targets why then would it care about the cultural heritage of a sovereign nation that it seeks to destroy?

*Malcolm Lillie*

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*I had asked Malcolm if he could give me a short comment on the relevance of the current war, to the archaeology of Ukraine and he responded with this excellent piece which I just had to make room for. The article was sent to me on March 14<sup>th</sup> and because I have not had time to run it past the full committee, I am obliged to point out that the views expressed are Malcolm's own and not necessarily those of the ERAS committee. Editor*

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## ***Discovery of a Bread Oven at Knights Garth Farm, Callas, Bishop Burton, East Yorkshire***

Ed Dennison of Ed Dennison Archaeological Services was asked by ERAS members Les and Margaret Hebb to view a former bread oven which had been discovered during ongoing renovation work at Knights Garth Farm, on Callas in Bishop Burton, East Yorkshire (NGR SE 98938 39610). The site is owned by Mr Phillip Ellerington, and the brief inspection was made on 17th December 2021.

Knights Garth Farm lies on the south side of Callas. The existing farm buildings probably date to the late 18th century, although they may have earlier origins. The former farmhouse is shown on the historic mapping from the late 18th century onwards; the two bays of the central part of the building rise to a tall two stories, with an attic space lit by dormer windows in the rear elevation. The building was subject to significant refurbishment work in the 1830s-40s, when the oven was probably inserted (Phillip Ellerington, *pers. comm.*). The building is not listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The former farmhouse is currently being converted into two apartments.

The bread or baking oven is located within a brick-built projection added to the rear of the building, at the south end of the east elevation (Fig. 2, back page). The bricks used to build the projection are deep red, handmade, set with a lime mortar but not laid to any particular bonding pattern; they are bull-nosed to the external corner, a characteristic shared with the adjacent external corner of the house. The presence of butt joints clearly show that the projection was added to the elevation. The wall above the bread oven projection contains an external doorway, leading into former farm hands' accommodation, which was accessed by external steps (now demolished) rising over the projection. Partial demolition of the projection has left the domed roof of the oven exposed (Fig. 2, back page).

Internally, the oven is set into the east wall of the former kitchen located to the rear of the building (Fig. 1). This wall is built of shallow, brownish-red handmade bricks, set with a lime mortar and in places laid in an

approximate English Garden Wall bond (three stretcher courses to each header course). The wall is much altered, and the entrance to the oven itself appears to have been cut into the wall, rather than being an original feature. The base of the oven entrance is set 1.20m above present floor level and the entrance has a shallowly arched head; the inserted opening measures 1.20m wide overall, although the actual opening into the bread oven is 0.70m wide (see plate 6). A narrow flue, internal to the east wall, is set above the entrance to allow smoke to escape from the interior when it was being fired. Smoke-blackened brickwork to the north of the bread oven suggests the presence of another former fireplace here.

A fire was usually lit in the oven, and when the interior had reached the required temperature, the ashes were raked out and whatever was to be baked placed inside; the entrance was originally equipped with a cast-iron door or similar which was hung on two iron pintels, the remains of which survive on the north side of the opening - the door does not appear to survive. The interior of the oven is circular in plan, measuring 1.20m in diameter and with a domed roof over standing 0.48m high to the centre. It is lined with yellowish-cream coloured refractory bricks, typically measuring 230mm by 115mm by 60mm thick, and they are also used for the floor; the lowest course of bricks are laid end-on. Although they look original to the oven, especially if it was inserted into the kitchen in the mid 19th century, the possibility that the bricks replaced an earlier brick lining cannot be discounted. The hole in the centre of the roof results from modern disturbance, and is not an original feature.

It is not going to be possible to incorporate the bread oven into the on-going conversion works, and so the owner of the site, Mr Ellerington, is thinking of carefully dismantling it and numbering the bricks etc, so that it can be re-erected on another site, if a suitable owner or interested party can be found.

*Ed*

*Dennison*



*Fig. 1. East wall of former kitchen showing bread oven*



*Fig. 2 East elevation of farmhouse, showing bread oven projection with domed roof, also first floor doorway above, looking NW.*  
*Photo, EDAS*

## ***ERAS Programme 2022***

**Wed. 6 April** - Field Studies Meeting, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley

**Wed 20 April** AGM at 7pm followed by final lecture at 7.30pm. Wilberforce Building, University of Hull  
Dr Lauren McIntyre, Project Officer, Heritage Burial Services, Oxford Archaeology. The A63 Project, Castle Street, Hull, Excavations.

**Wed 4 May** Field Studies Meeting, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley

Field Studies usually continues throughout the summer, on the first Wednesday of the month, but check the website for details or contact the Secretary.

Lectures at the University resume on Weds 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm Please check the website for details, but you should receive another Newsletter, giving details, before the start of the Autumn lecture sessions.

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### **Renewal / Membership Form,**

☐ I would like to join ERAS **OR** ☐ Please renew my ERAS membership for 2022 (due Jan 2022)

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

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