

## Protecting Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa

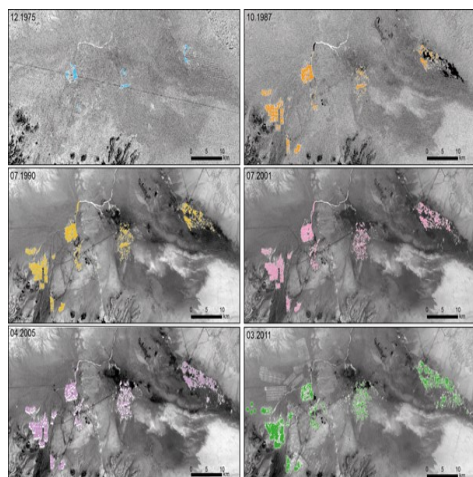
*Dr Louise Rayne and Prof. David Mattingly*

**E**ndangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa, otherwise known as 'EAMENA', is a joint project between the Universities of Leicester and Oxford to record, communicate and ultimately protect archaeology under threat of destruction and damage throughout the Middle East and North Africa. We are creating a detailed database of sites that are threatened, damaged or already destroyed. This data is being provided to those with the responsibility, capability and capacity to protect cultural heritage in the Middle East and North Africa. We are using the latest satellite technologies along with legacy aerial photographs and decommissioned spy satellite images to identify archaeology, and as a basis for targeted field survey to enrich our recording where possible.

In 2015, the first year of the project, we created records for over 90,000 sites and undertook case studies to identify some of the causes of damage in countries including Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan. For example, changes between images collected from the 1930s to 2014 were quantified for the Jufra oases in Libya, identifying a number of sites destroyed and at risk from agricultural expansion. These results were communicated to the Department of Antiquities who were able to undertake a vital survey of the region. Fieldwork was also undertaken by Leicester members of the project in the Wadi Draa, Morocco in November 2015. Here, an ancient city in the region was under severe threat of destruction, but the

*"We are using the latest satellite technologies along with legacy aerial photographs and decommissioned spy satellite images"*

project was able to aid and support the local archaeologists in halting the ongoing damage. We are now working with the Ministry of Culture and the local community to help secure more lasting protection and recognition of the remains.



Vegetation classifications performed using Landsat satellite imagery showed an increase of cultivation from 1975 to 2011, impacting on the survival of archaeology

So far in 2016 we have continued to populate the database with records of archaeological sites. We are also developing a strategy for the incorporation of archived historic imagery into our database. We have been involved in training, outreach and dissemination activities including a successful training course for Libyan archaeologists held in Leicester



Stone robbing from a hilltop site near Zagora, Morocco

in March (see page 6). Other highlights have included the 'Protecting the Past' conference in Jordan, a day seminar at St John's College, Oxford and meetings with key partners in Geneva, Atlanta and Washington DC.

Our ongoing work includes further recording using satellite imagery and fieldwork as well as future training courses and partnerships, and translation of the website and database into Arabic. As we develop our database, we will be able to undertake more extensive analyses on the extent and nature of the threats to the archaeology of the region as a whole.

### Inside our blue\* Issue 38:

- ULAS News
- Criminal Corpses
- Classics for All
- Roman Adventures
- TRAC
- Libyan Heritage
- Richard III and Football
- Cake, Coconuts, and More!



*The Bulletin* is edited by Dr Chloe Duckworth, [cd227@le.ac.uk](mailto:cd227@le.ac.uk)

Current PhD student Matt Mandich and graduated Chantal Biemann celebrate

It is contributed to by the **staff and students** of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, and ULAS.

\*In honour of the historic victory of Leicester City Football Club

## Welcome to The Bulletin Issue 38 (Trophies, Kings, and Other Successes)

**Dr Richard Thomas, Acting Head of School**

Two days ago a national tabloid newspaper ran with the ingenious headline: "The King's Power: Did the digging up of Richard III lead Leicester to the Premier League title?". Within higher education today, researchers are constantly pressed to demonstrate the impact of their scholarship. It is probably a stretch too far to claim Leicester City's Premier League triumph as an impact case study for the School in the next Research Excellence Framework in 2020; nevertheless, the headline and article demonstrate the positive way in which archaeology and history can enhance a sense of local identity and community – in much the same way that sport has done in the city in recent months. Coincidences/superstitions aside, it is an exciting time to be in the city!

It remains an exciting time to be part of the School too. Since the last issue of The Bulletin we have welcomed new Lecturer in Ancient History Dr. Jane Masségia and a new member of our professional services team – Emily Walker, to replace Oli Dooley, who has jetted off to pastures new in Switzerland.

Colleagues within the School have been exceptionally successful of late, with the award of a string of research grants, covering a huge diversity of scholarship encompassing: the creation of an oral history project of peoples' perceptions of the cultural value of Leicester's built and archaeological heritage since the 1960s; uranium-thorium dating of human cave use on Mona Island in the Caribbean; strontium isotope analysis of Bronze Age cremated remains; and archaeological fieldwork in Spain. Eight members of teaching staff have also had their teaching excellence recognised by election as Fellows (or Senior Fellows) of the Higher Education Academy.

The content of this bulletin also demonstrates the productivity of SAAH students who have contributed much to this issue – for a challenge, count how many times PhD candidate Jane Ainsworth appears! Our students play a central role in the life and community of the School, whether they are studying by distance or on campus, and we are looking to work with both groups as the second season of our field school at Bradgate Park runs in June and July. Do keep a look out on social media for progress updates: [www.facebook.com/BradgateParkFieldschool/](http://www.facebook.com/BradgateParkFieldschool/)



Foxes and Roses: King Richard III shows his support for the local team on the door to the SAAH building



### The Hellenistic Peloponnese: New Perspectives

## MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

International Ph.D. & Early Career Researchers Conference

The Hellenistic Peloponnese, with its unique range of political and cultural institutions, landscapes, and identities is a topic that invites new inter-disciplinary approaches. These will include purely historical reassessments or new approaches to material culture. The conference will gather Ph.D. students and Early Career Researchers whose work or research interests involve the Hellenistic Peloponnese, thus challenging traditional interpretations and/or offering new insights or methodological approaches.

IN ORDER TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE ORGANISERS:

JANE AINSWORTH, [JLA26@LEICESTER.AC.UK](mailto:JLA26@LEICESTER.AC.UK); MANOLIS PAGKALOS, [MP482@LEICESTER.AC.UK](mailto:MP482@LEICESTER.AC.UK); ANDREA SCARPATO, [AS817@LEICESTER.AC.UK](mailto:AS817@LEICESTER.AC.UK)

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PROF. ANDREW MEADOWS  
(OXFORD)

DR DANIEL STEWART  
(LEICESTER)

#### 16 PAPERS

*ARCHAEOLOGY, ANCIENT  
HISTORY, ART, SOCIOLOGY,  
POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS*

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER,  
CHARLES WILSON BUILDING,  
4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, RUTLAND & GAR-  
TREE



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**



## ULAS News

### Patrick Clay reports:

It's been a busy old time in the wacky world of ULAS since the October 2015 *Bulletin*. Below we offer a few highlights.

**The autumn saw us back within the Roman town walls of Leicester** to carry out two area excavations at very short notice at Southgate Street. The northern area was in the north-western corner of a Roman *insula* with the intersection of two cambered gravelled streets, one N-S and one E-W. The N-S street is of particular significance as it is previously unrecorded in this part of town and is not on our current Roman town plan. Activity inside the *insula* appears to be quiet with a thick deposit of 'garden' soil building up against a boundary wall. However, in the later Roman period a series of crude structures appear to have been built up against the wall: shallow stone wall footings, crude stone floors, post-holes and a series of industrial features. One of the best pieces of evidence for a Roman timber-framed building found in Leicester to date was in the south-west corner of the southern area. The walls were rendered and painted with quarter-round moulded fillets of *opus signinum* running around the skirting. Four rooms have been identified dating to the mid-2nd century.



Late Roman buckle from Western Road, Leicester

More work was carried out at the Western Road Roman cemetery with one skeleton associated with a rare Late Roman belt set linked with late Roman military/civil service dress in the second half of the 4th and early 5th century. The best parallel for this belt set is one from a burial at the Shore Fort on the opposite side of the English Channel at Oudenburg in Belgium.

**Going further back in time, excavations have been completed on the late Upper Palaeolithic Creswellian site at Bradgate Park.** Hand-recovered finds have reached 4,600 flints with a rich proportion of tools and by-products, at almost 10%. The spatial predictions from the 2014 test pits were very good, meaning that our cross baulks were located across the centre of the occupation. The central spits were the most prolific and produced some of the larger finds. Plotting

of the finds has allowed a real time assessment of the results: one very interesting pattern is the disposition of the cores. These display a circular pattern c.5m across. The working



View of the excavations of Creswellian deposits at Bradgate with the likely position of a tent outlined by the team. Photo by Paul Burrows using a drone

hypothesis is that these larger flints have rested against the bounds of a tent wall.

**Excavations at Lubbesthorpe have revealed Mid to Late Bronze Age urned cremations** with a possible associated settlement, while at Rothley excavation has revealed a Bronze Age barrow, Iron Age activity, and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. A large aggregated Iron Age settlement has been located at Eye Kettleby, Melton while smaller Iron Age-Roman sites have been located in trial trench evaluations at Ingarsby, Waltham and Sysonby. Medieval settlement core remains have been recorded at Bottesford and Market Bosworth while historic building surveys have been undertaken at Rodbaston, Staffordshire, Melton, Pickworth and Leicester.

Well attended and well received open days have been held at Brooksby Quarry, Bradgate Park and Welford, Northamptonshire and Richard Bradley is just back from a second Richard III lecture tour in the eastern USA.



Excavation in progress at Southgate Street, Leicester



# From Greek Monuments and Roman Dirt...

New Roman History Lecturer, **Dr Jack Lennon**, and new Greek History Lecturer, **Dr Janie Masségia**, interview each other for *The Bulletin*



## Where were you before you came to Leicester?

**JM:** It turns about that we're both a bit dull – we both came from positions in the universities that we studied in as undergraduates and then graduates. No... not dull - consistent.

**JL:** Yes, I studied Ancient History at Nottingham for my BA, and then did a PhD in Classics. After that, I held down two jobs at the same time, teaching at UCL and Kent universities, before a brief stint doing 'research'...

**JM:** I heard the air quotes there.

**JL:** ... 'research' at the British School at Rome, which was brilliant. I was looking at depictions of Roman sacrifice, and the people who had the unfortunate job of having to do it. Then I found myself back where I started, doing lots of teaching at Nottingham. You?

**JM:** I studied Classics at Oxford, and first went off to train to be a Classics teacher, before coming back as a post-graduate.

**JL:** How long were you a Classics teacher for?

**JM:** Five years. But some of those overlapped with being a postgraduate student. I didn't have funding for my MPhil or DPhil, and in those days, it was just about possible to pay your way through your doctorate by working. After that, I

was a postdoc on two big research projects – the Emotions Project for the ERC and the Ashmolean Latin Inscriptions Project for the AHRC. I did various teaching stints along the way, and I arrived at Leicester in February.

## What is your research about?

**JL:** The glamorous world of dirt in Ancient Rome.

**JM:** What kind of dirt?

**JL:** My PhD looked at Roman ideas of religious pollution, things like birth, sex and death...

**JM:** All the good stuff.

**JL:** ... and the way they all interfere with religion. And now I'm looking at the way the idea of dirtiness was used to push people to the margins, people like pimps and under-takers.

**JM:** Ah, I was looking at something similar in my thesis, about how body language could be used to distinguish between 'good' and 'bad' types of individuals in the Hellenistic world. Now I'm looking at Anatolian tombstones, but I'm still interested in how social status is created in a community.

## What do you teach?

**JM:** At the moment, I'm teaching a variety of Greek topics alongside Jan Haywood and Graham Shipley – the Introduction to Greek History, the Early Polis, the Troy module. All good clean fun. Next year, I get to teach my own modules, one on Greek biography, and another on studying Greek history through monuments. How about you?

**JL:** Yes, I'm looking forward to teaching my own modules next year.

**JM:** What are you offering?

**JL:** A module on Roman Religion, which I've wanted to teach for ages, and a module on the fall of the Roman Republic. And I'm going to be Co-ordinator for the revised first-year Latin sources module.

**JM:** Snap! But for the Greek sources module.

## What do you do when you're not working?

**JM:** I play the piano, and I sing a bit...

**JL:** I play the guitar. We should form a band.\*

**JM:** Can you imagine? The end of term parties? Maybe not. What else? I love to knit. I used to play cricket quite seriously, but now I'm happy to watch from the boundary with a picnic.

**JL:** I do Aikido in lieu of proper exercise. And on rare occasions, I like to read mindless fiction.

**JM:** What kind of fiction?

**JL:** I'm currently working my way through Terry Pratchett.

**JM:** Great choice. I've only just finished *The Shepherd's Crown*. Granny Weatherwax is my hero.

**JL:** I'll read that one once I've finished designing my modules.

**JM:** Have a hankie ready...

\*Band names on a postcard, please! Ed.

## Rome Study Tour, April 2016

An overview by Dr Jan Haywood

**T**his spring saw the very welcome return of the Study Tour to Rome. Four MA students, along with twelve undergraduate students, were led by Neil Christie, Jane Ainsworth and myself across the city and introduced to its many delights. The trip provided students the opportunity to see a number of ancient sites, such as the Roman Forum and the Theatre of Marcellus, and even the chance to delve into the bowels and eaves of the mighty Flavian amphitheatre (much to the chagrin of the site's other visitors!).

The students also treated us to a suite of learned presentations, from the death of Caesar, to Trajan's Column to the *annona*. Other highlights of the trip included a visit to Ostia Antica, a harbour town just to the north of ancient Rome that provided important support to the Eternal City.

[continued on p.5]





## ...To Caribbean Archaeology

New Lecturer in Historical Archaeology, **Dr Alice Samson**, introduces herself

**M**y first transcendental experience? Being handed a fresh coconut in the excavation unit. Simple pleasures. Yes people, this is Caribbean archaeology. I'm Alice, passionate about the indigenous and early colonial archaeology of the Caribbean islands, and since January, new Lecturer in Historical Archaeology.

It's probably true to say that for many people Caribbean history starts with Columbus in 1492, others would say it ended there, and yet others would say "Arrrrr, pirates!" My research and teaching touches on all of these. For those who think "those balmy island societies are all alike" (Mintz 2008), you should know that no two are even remotely alike, and there are over 800 separate landmasses in the Bahamas alone.

The history of Europe, Britain, and Leicester no less, is deeply bound up with the Caribbean, in terms of capitalism, industrialization, and slavery, but did you know that our words for hurricane, barbecue, and hammock derive from native Caribbean languages, that the highest part of the Netherlands is a tropical volcanic peak (and that chickens from fugitive slave villages still thrive at the bottom of the crater, yes Richard Thomas, chickens), and Robert Dudley, son of the Earl of Leicester, claimed Trinidad for the Queen in 1594?

*It's probably true to say that for many people Caribbean history starts with Columbus in 1492, others would say it ended there, and yet others would say "Arrrrr, pirates!"*

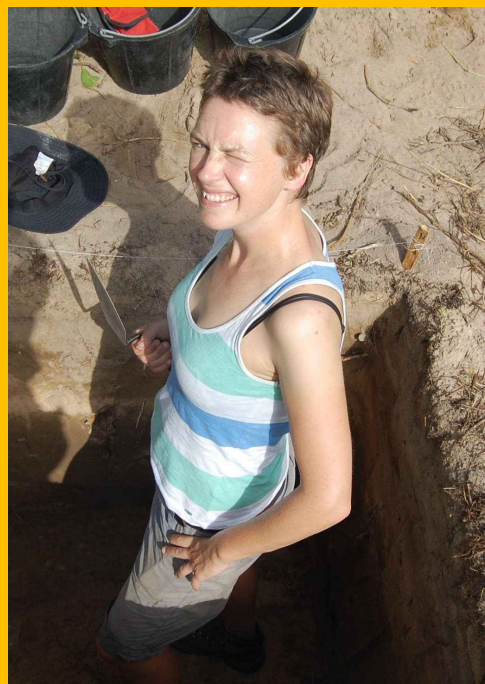
I did not know any of these things before I started my PhD in 2005 at Leiden University on the household and settlement archaeology of an indigenous town site in the Dominican Republic. My dissertation work uncovered the first indigenous houses on the island, and revealed how native inhabitants reacted to transatlantic encounters in the first decade of Spanish colonization (in a nutshell, initial interest, followed by considerable displeasure). Since then I have worked on precolonial and colonial sites in the French and Dutch Caribbean, in mangroves, beaches, and on the edge of feral-pig infested rubbish tips (yes, people, this is also Caribbean archaeology).

My current work returns to the Spanish Caribbean where I direct field projects in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Four years ago I started investigating creolizations, pre- and post-Columbus, for my British Academy postdoctoral fellowship at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge. This project looked at centuries of transformation in native settlements, and also sparked my current collaboration with Dr Jago Cooper from the British Museum. Together with local students and colleagues from the Puerto Rican government, we work on the small uninhabited Mona Island where the focus of our present work is deep underground in the island's many caves.

As well as producing the first direct dates for Caribbean cave art and details of paint recipes and techniques, publications coming out this summer talk about how Mona's caves were settings of some of the first ontological encounters between Europeans and Native Americans through analysis of the images and inscriptions on the cave walls. These are testimony to the arrival and reception of Christianity, and the impact of native worldview on the first generations of Spaniards in the Americas.

This is work we hope to continue for years to come, involving students and colleagues in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History. As well as this, over the summer I will be preparing new modules on Caribbean archaeology and the archaeology of colonialism. To sign off with the words of the great Bob Marley, in this bright future, you can't forget your past!

For this and more on the rich histories and cultures of the Caribbean check out the following podcast project with colleague Dr Angus Mol: <http://www.shoresoftime.com/podcast/>



**[Rome Study Tour: continued from p.4]** This well-preserved site includes a range of recognisable buildings, from private houses to the local bar (not forgetting, of course, the public lavatories!), and some students even managed to pay due obeisance to the god Mithras in one of Ostia's myriad Mithraea.

The MA students and I were fortunate enough to spend a couple more days in Rome once the undergraduates had gone home. Here we were treated to a series of splendid visits to the Domus Aurea—Emperor Nero's decidedly modest palatial complex, housing just the few dozen dining rooms!—the Baths of Caracalla, the Capitoline Museum, and Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli—a vast, sprawling site that served as something of an architectural playground for our highfalutin' emperor.

Overall, students were very enthusiastic about the tour. They were particularly delighted with the blue skies and warm weather—not to mention the lashings of gelato on offer. And

more than one individual remarked on the not insubstantial number of churches that we frequented. Indeed, if there is one lesson to take away from the trip, it is that nothing ensures the preservation of an ancient site better than its conversion into a place of worship!



## Libyan Antiquities at Risk: Combatting Illicit Antiquities Trafficking

**Dr Niccolò Mugnai** on SAAH Workshop at the British Academy

As part of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History project *LAaR: Libyan Antiquities at Risk*, funded by the Society for Libyan Studies and AHRC and led by Prof. David Mattingly, a one-day workshop was run at the British Academy on 3 March 2016. The organization of this event gave us the opportunity to establish strong international collaborations with research teams who are currently working on the preservation and safeguarding of archaeological heritage in Libya and other endangered countries of North Africa and the Middle East.



LAaR Team and Libyan colleagues at the workshop



Mselleten, obelisk tombs. Photograph courtesy of Phillip Kenrick

The morning session of the workshop took the form of a round-table discussion, during which academics, cultural heritage operators (ICOM, UNESCO, Art Loss Register, British Museum), professional antiquities dealers, and the Art and Antiques Unit of the Metropolitan Police had the chance to share information and suggestions on how to combat illicit antiquities trafficking.

Six lectures were presented during the afternoon session: an introduction to the project by the LAaR team; an update on the current situation in Libya by local colleagues; and an outline of other related projects which are being carried out by research teams in the UK, Europe, and the USA.

This workshop was the first step to raising the interest of the international scientific community, and to highlighting the principal issues of the illicit antiquities trade and threats to archaeological heritage in Libya and the MENA zone.

For more information on this important work, visit <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/laar-libyan-antiquities-at-risk>

## Post-Graduate Conference

**Jane Ainsworth** reports:

**The inaugural SAAH Postgraduate Conference took place on 15 November 2015**, with a full 24 papers presented by post-graduate researchers (PGRs) from three different countries to an audience of over 60 members of the SAAH community and beyond. Such a strong response meant that parallel sessions were needed in the lofty heights of the Charles Wilson Building, and we were joined online by distance learning students. The conference allowed PGRs to gain valuable experience not just in presenting papers, but also in chairing sessions, with some trying both on the day.

Subjects ranged in date from the Lower Palaeolithic to the present day, and geographically from Great Britain to New Britain. Both Archaeology and Ancient History were strongly represented, with topics including hoard biographies, Roman baths, Byzantine scaffolds, soup kitchens, gurdwaras and the practically-compulsory chickens. Even “useless” results were covered, by special remote presentation from Daan van Helden in the Netherlands, and the range of topics and approaches encouraged a lively debate on the question of identity. This theme continued into the afternoon session, with questions of Visigothic identity discussed by Javier Williams live from



A truly excellent, part “excavated” cake by Suzy Alfano

Mexico. Special thanks should go to Chantal Biemann for her help in setting up and administering the online presentations. Discussion continued at the evening reception, the highlight of which was, in best SAAH tradition, the fantastic cake baked by Suzy Alfano.

The conference was a great opportunity for the PGR community (especially recent starters) to meet, hear new lines of research and exchange ideas. We hope next year that more of the distance learning students will join us, either in person or online, since the friendly atmosphere provides a good opportunity to try out new ideas and receive feedback. It was particularly helpful to receive staff feedback, and thanks should go to Prof Marijke van der Veen for the details she sent round to all speakers afterwards. As well as presentation opportunities, orchestrating the setup of the conference provided students Andrea Scarpato, Jane Ainsworth and Clare Canning, under the watchful eye of Dr Neil Christie, with much experience of the practicalities of advertising, administering and trouble-shooting a one-day conference.

Anyone interested in taking on this role next year should contact Dr Neil Christie. The variety and content of the papers made this a great showcase for our postgraduate students, and it will now form a much-anticipated annual addition to the academic and SAAH calendar.



# Archaeology and Classics in the Community

Outreach Officer **Debbie Miles-Williams** and PhD Student **Jane Ainsworth** report:



Pupils at five local schools were introduced to Latin and life in ancient Leicester by teams of volunteers from SAAH this spring. The project, initially funded as an Enterprise venture through the University's Prospects scheme, and now with a three year grant from *Classics for All*, aims to disseminate SAAH research in the community, as well as improving academic achievement and awareness of access to university education for

the 96 children who took part (70 pupils from three schools enjoyed the pilot project last year). The schools have had the opportunity to have a try at dig boxes (thanks to DM-W and zone 2 porters!) and try on Roman armour, as well as meeting characters from Leicester's past inspired by the signed objects now in Jewry Wall, including Marcus the centurion, Verecunda the dancing girl and Lucius the gladiator.

The volunteers have been led by Roman guide Cori the Rat (above, created, along with all the other characters, by Giacomo Savani) and (more practically) postgraduate supervisors Amy Wale, Antonino Crisa, Giacomo Savani, Rachel Wilkinson and Sarah Scheffler in delivering sessions on curse

tablets, togas, life in the army and tombstones, to name but a few. A session on burial practices and the underworld, originally created by Amy as part of her Archaeology and Ancient History in Education undergraduate module, proved particularly popular, with the pupils at Fullhurst Community College adding a local identity to the grave in question.

Feedback for the sessions has been very positive; when asked what they would change, primary pupils from Overdale School said, "nothing: it's too good", as reiterated by the senior girls at Leicester High School, "Nothing but want more time!!". Students at Lancaster School were particularly struck by Aimee Schofield's expert instructions on Roman warfare, and can now respond in correct form to a barbarian attack while wearing their own personalised helmets.

We now hope to run a course open to pupils from all the schools taking part who would like to continue learning Latin, while continuing with the starter sessions for new pupils next year. Two more schools have already said they would like to run the course with their pupils. If you have an object or topic which you think would appeal to school pupils (with or without any Latin) or would like to get involved with the project, please contact Jane Ainsworth at [jla26@le.ac.uk](mailto:jla26@le.ac.uk). We shall need more supervisors and volunteers next year.

The project, led by Dr Sarah Scott, would not be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of supervisors, volunteers and the staff at the schools involved: Lancaster School, Overdale School, Leicester High School, Fullhurst College (where SAAH alumna Olivia Birtles has introduced the project) and Folville School. Enormous thanks must also go to Debbie Frearson and everyone at ULAS, especially Nick Cooper, for their generous help with information and images.



Self-defence at Overdale School





## Libarna Research Project

Prof. Pim Allison

**I**n July Pim Allison and two of the School's former PhD students, Asst. Prof. Katie Huntley (now Boise State University, Idaho) and Asst. Prof. Hannah Friedman (now Texas Technical University), will be starting a new field project at the Roman city of Libarna in northern Italy.

Libarna, located c.130 km south of Turin, lies in a key but under-researched region of the Roman world, between Roman Italy proper and Cisalpine Gaul, on the major ancient road, the Via Postumia. It was first settled during the Iron Age (6<sup>th</sup> cent. BCE) by the Liguri, an indigenous Gallic people in northern Italy, and is located on an important trade route to the Etruscan settlement at Genova. The settlement was converted into a Roman colony in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BCE. Visible remains of this include a theatre, bath complex, forum, amphitheatre and urban blocks, dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> cent. CE, when Libarna underwent major urban growth. Most of the town remains unexcavated.



Dr Alessandro Quercia, former post-doctoral fellow on the SAAH's 'Tracing Networks' project and now archaeological officer for the Superintendency of Piedmont, invited us to conduct a field project at Libarna, and we visited the site in 2015. Through this project we aim to improve understanding of the socio-economic history of Roman northern Italy, its cultural integration and economic development, through domestic housing and household practices at the site.

The preliminary three-week season in July, with students from Boise and Texas, will be a scoping programme to develop greater understanding of sub-surface structural remains, the city's layout, and previous investigations. It will involve archaeological survey and fieldwalking in the territory belonging to the Superintendency of Piedmont; survey of 'legacy data' from previous excavations; and liaising with local farmers and businesses to investigate nearby private property that was once part of this Roman city. We hope this initial survey will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the layout of the core of this city and identify areas for further survey and excavation in the coming years.

## CIfA at Leicester

Dr Emma Dwyer

**The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), the leading professional body for archaeologists** working in the UK and overseas, held its annual conference here, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. It was attended by more than 400 archaeologists from a range of backgrounds – commercial units and consultants, academics and students, local authorities and national government agencies.

The programme began with a welcome from Leicester's Heritage Champion and Assistant Mayor for Energy and Sustainability, Cllr Adam Clarke, who spoke on the heritage-driven regeneration of Leicester, and plans for the improvement of Jewry Wall Museum and the former Vaughan College. At a time when museums, archives, planning and cultural services face deepening cuts, delegates were pleased to hear about a local authority that sees the social and economic value of the historic environment.

More than 20 sessions took place during the three days, ranging from archaeology in the context of criminal justice, and professionalism in archaeology on both sides of the Atlantic, to the application of landscape survey techniques and the archaeology of brewing. Particularly well-attended were sessions on the boundaries of public archaeology, archaeology and education, and equality and diversity in archaeology – examining issues around gender, disability, and LGBT diversity in the heritage sector.



Several members of the SAAH attended the conference. Sarah Scott presented on the Archaeology and Classics in the Community project, part of a session which promoted archaeology as a learning tool within the National Curriculum. Richard Thomas and ULAS took delegates on a tour of Bradgate Park, introducing the new fieldschool. Delegates could also opt for a walking tour of the Greyfriars Townscape Heritage Initiative area. The University is a partner in the project, and students from the School have been researching the history and development of the area's buildings and undertaking oral histories with members of the area's legal community.

Social events showed off some of Leicester's historic buildings, with the opening night drinks reception at the Guildhall (beer sponsorship from Everards, pictured), dinner at the City Rooms, and an evening at a recently converted industrial building, the Parcel Yard on London Road.

Thanks are due to the School's army of student volunteers: Jane Ainsworth, Jennifer Beamer, Anna-Sophie Bulder, Jen Cousal, Debbie Frearson, Crysta Kaczmarek, Rebecca Leeman, Thuvoraha Rangaroopan, Lindsay Reinhardt, Ffion Rogers, Eric Tourigny, Hannah Wolden and Deanna Wright.



<http://www.archaeologists.net/conference/2016> The next CIfA conference takes place at Newcastle University, 19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> April 2017



# Harnessing the Power of the Criminal Corpse

## Dr Emma Battell Lowman on blogs, books and bodies

Under the leadership of Prof. Sarah Tarlow, the five-year Wellcome Trust funded project, *Harnessing the Power of the Criminal Corpse*, is now coming to a very successful conclusion. This multidisciplinary investigation into the 80-year period in British history during which those convicted of murder were sentenced not only to death on the gallows but also to spectacular post-mortem punishments has for the first time followed the journey of the criminal body beyond the hanging tree and into the legal, medical, archaeological, social, folkloric, magical, and philosophical, spaces and contexts where these bodies continued to possess power and value.

In September 2015 we launched our scholarly blog, 'The Power of the Criminal Corpse' (1) which showcases regular contributions from our project team. These bite-sized posts give us the opportunity to share work-in-progress, tell exciting research stories, and reflect on our work and its implications in an academic yet informal forum. We are pleased to report that this blog has been used in undergraduate teaching in other departments at the university and is being shared widely on social media. Plus, there are pictures ... lots of gory pictures.

*"This project has followed the journey of the criminal body beyond the hanging tree and into the legal, medical, archaeological, social, folkloric, magical, and philosophical, spaces and contexts where these bodies continued to possess power and value"*

This year will see the publication of key project outputs, in particular monographs by archaeologist and gibbet expert Sarah Tarlow, historian of crime and punishment Pete King, historian of medicine Elizabeth Hurren, philosopher Floris Tomasini, and historians of folklore Owen Davies and Francesca Matteoni as part of the Palgrave Pivot series, *The Power of the Criminal Corpse* (series editors Owen Davies, Elizabeth Hurren, and Sarah Tarlow). A co-authored volume by Sarah Tarlow and Emma Battell Lowman brings together the project's multiple research strands into a cohesive examination of the multiple ways power inheres in the criminal corpses produced and punished under the Murder Act (1752-1832) in Britain and will be published in early 2017. In accordance with the protocols of our generous funder, The Wellcome Trust, all of these books will be completely open access in their electronic forms which will make them exceptionally accessible materials for teaching and research. As these books are published, full links and citation details will be made available on our website and blog. (2) We are also delighted to share that Rachel Bennett, the project's fully-funded PhD candidate, was awarded her doctorate in 2016 for her ground-breaking thesis on the Murder Act and post-mortem punishment in Scotland.

**Beyond the scholarly outputs of *Harnessing the Power of the Criminal Corpse*, this is really a project about bodies.** About the corpses created under a law designed to increase the 'terror and infamy' of the crime of murder by subjecting convicted offenders to death but also the denial of burial until their bodies had either been dissected – first for public consumption of crowds regularly numbering over 10,000 and then by the growing medical fraternity of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – or gibbeted, that is, encased upright in iron and suspended from a 30-foot post and allowed to swing in the wind and decay over weeks, years, and decades. These punishments connected the growing medical profession to the criminal justice system, and wrote the names and stories of malefactors onto the landscapes of Britain in ways that endure today. Very little of these bodies endure, but their power and presence remain with us right up to the present day.



William Hogarth, *Four Stages of Cruelty - The Reward of Cruelty* (Plate IV). Tom Nero's body is dissected after he has been hanged.

(1) <http://staffblogs.le.ac.uk/crimcorpse/>

(2) <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/criminal-bodies-1>



## Theoretical Roman Archaeology From Leicester to Rome

**Thomas Derrick and Matthew Mandich** report on TRAC-related successes for Leicester PhD students:

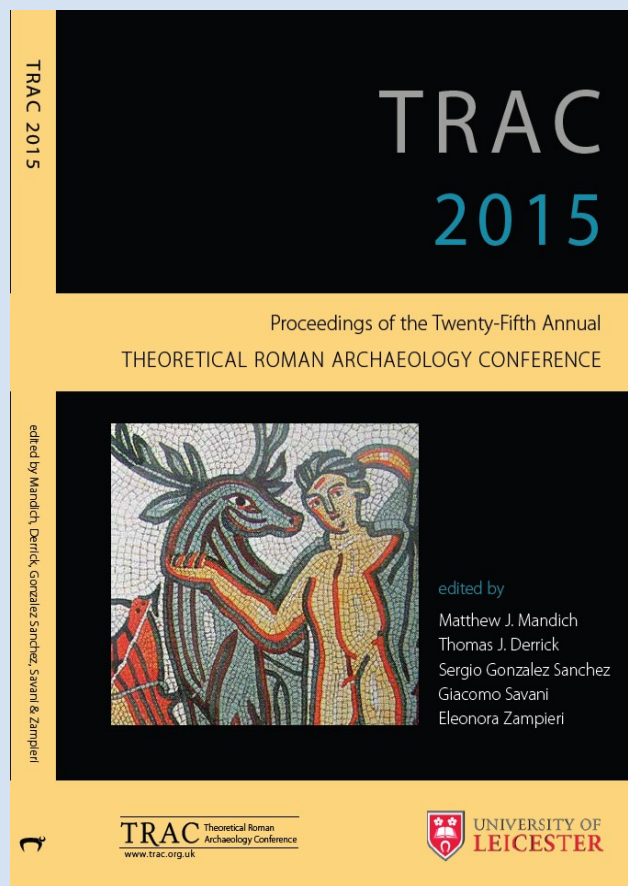
In March 2015 the School of Archaeology and Ancient History hosted the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference. Many Leicester staff and post-graduates, past and present, have had prominent involvement with TRAC since its inception in 1991, with the University of Leicester having also held the conference in 1996 and 2003.

The 2015 event was a great success, attracting just under 200 delegates from approximately 14 countries, a testament to all of the work put in by the local organising committee and the vibrant research community at the University of Leicester.

The proceedings of the 25<sup>th</sup> conference have now been published with Oxbow Books. The volume was edited by Leicester PhD students Matthew Mandich, Tom Derrick, Giacomo Savani, Sergio Gonzalez Sanchez, and Eleonora Zampieri. A big thank you is due to all of the academics in the department who assisted in the peer review process. The volume was launched at the 2016 RAC/TRAC conference at the Sapienza University of Rome and a large contingent from the department attended the event, with current and recent students (Carla Brain, Tom Derrick, Sarah Scheffler, and Dr. Anna Walas) and a Research Associate (Dr Adrian Chadwick) presenting papers.



Some of the 200 delegates at TRAC 2015



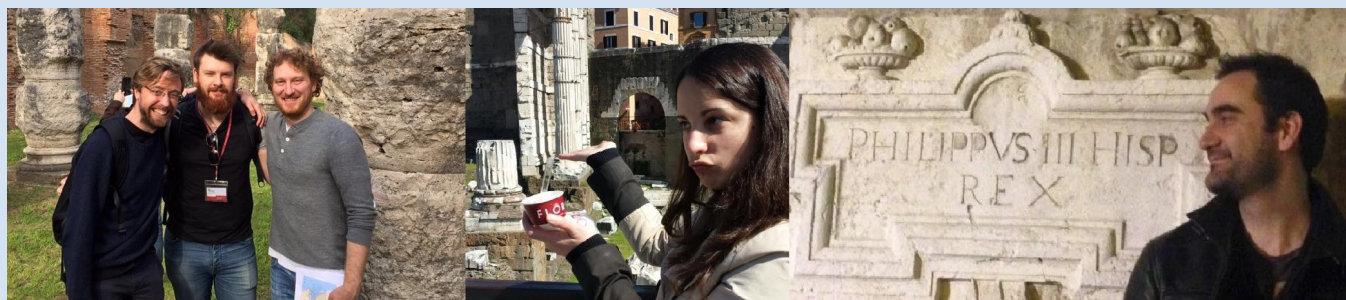
The TRAC 2015 Volume, edited by five of our own PhD students, is now available to buy

At the TRAC annual general meeting this year, three of the Leicester local organising committee (Matthew, Thomas, and Sergio) were elected to the TRAC Standing Committee (as Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively) to serve a term of at least three years. At the same time recently finished Leicester PhD student Dr Ian Marshman has stepped down from the Standing Committee after serving since the 23<sup>rd</sup> TRAC conference at King's College London in 2013.

The 2017 TRAC conference will be held at Durham University and we hope to see many of you there!

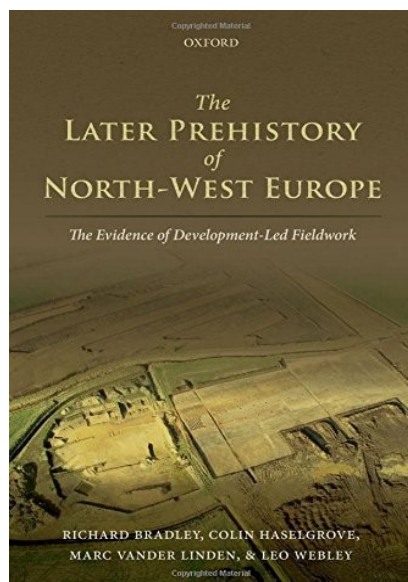
Buy the TRAC 2015 volume, produced by the University of Leicester with TRAC and Oxbow Books, here:

<http://www.oxbowbooks.com/oxbow/trac-2015.html>



Leicester PhD Students (L-R) enjoy some afternoon sun at Portus, explain the stratigraphy of central Rome through gelato analogy, and connect with ancestral Spanish presence in Rome near the Embassy on the Janiculum hill.





R BRADLEY, C HASELGROVE, M VANDER LINDEN AND L WEBLEY. **THE LATER PREHISTORY OF NORTH-WEST EUROPE: THE EVIDENCE OF DEVELOPMENT-LED FIELDWORK** OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, OXFORD, 2015. 456 PP, 117 FIGS, 5 TABLES, 1 APPENDIX. ISBN 978-0-19- 965977-7, HB £90

An outcome of the Leverhulme project 'British & Irish prehistory in their European context', this book provides a unique, up-

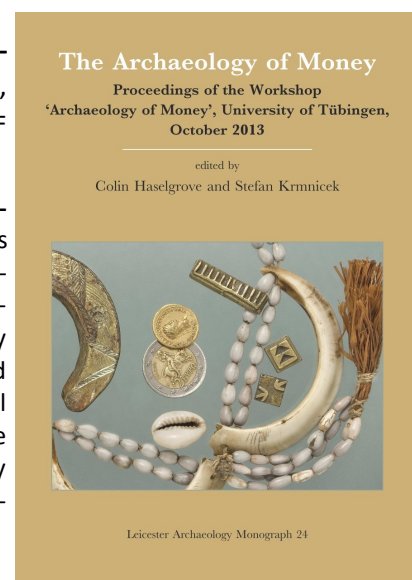
## Books

to-date, and easily accessible synthesis of the later prehistoric archaeology of north-west Europe, transcending political and language barriers that can hinder understanding. By surveying changes in social forms, landscape organization, monument types, and ritual practices over six millennia, the volume reassesses the prehistory of north-west Europe from the late Mesolithic to the end of the pre-Roman Iron Age. It explores how far common patterns of social development are apparent across north-west Europe, and whether there were periods when local differences were emphasized instead. In relation to this, it also examines changes through time in the main axes of contact between the various regions of continental Europe, Britain, and Ireland. Key to the volume's broad scope is its focus on the vast mass of new evidence

provided by recent development-led excavations. The authors collate data that has been gathered on thousands of sites across Britain, Ireland, northern France, the Low Countries, western Germany, and Denmark, using sources including unpublished 'grey literature' reports. The results challenge many aspects of previous narratives of later prehistory, allowing the volume to present a distinctively fresh perspective.

C HASELGROVE AND S KRMNICEK (EDS) **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MONEY. PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP 'ARCHAEOLOGY OF MONEY'**, UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN, OCTOBER 2013. LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGY MONOGRAPH 24. LEICESTER: SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT HISTORY, 2016. ISBN 9780957479234, PB £18.99

This volume contains papers presented at a workshop on **The Archaeology of Money** held in 2013 at the University of Tübingen, as part of the University of Leicester's Leverhulme Trust funded *Tracing Networks* programme. The contributors offer insights into the study of money from both archaeological and anthropological perspectives, ranging from notions of value and varying material manifestations of monetary objects, to the multiplicity of functions these can perform as economic, social and ritual media in different cultural contexts. The broad geographical and chronological spread of the papers, from prehistory to the present day, provides a comparative approach to the archaeology of money, exploring the trajectories by which money and coin use developed, emphasising distinctive cultural features and regional variations, and challenging perceived views of the economic functions of money.



Asterix and  
the MISSING SCROLL

THE NEW ALBUM  
OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 2015

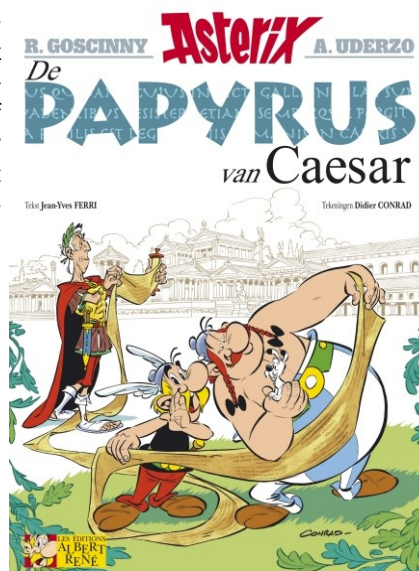
recent instalment remains true to the wit and contemporary relevance of the originals (apparently this one even features a whistleblower) while still appealing to children. I look forward to reading it.

A charming review by a young reader can be found here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2016/jan/16/asterix-and-the-missing-scroll-jean-yves-ferri-review>

It may be a little unusual for us to plug a book which was not produced by members of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, but **Asterix fans** will be delighted to learn of the latest in the series, titled (in English) *Asterix and the Missing Scroll*.

Having grown up with Asterix books it is a pleasure to hear that the most recent







## When in Rome...

**Claire Jackson**, third-year BA Ancient History and History student

Last September, I went on a trip to Rome funded by one of the Society of Dilettanti's Annual Travel Scholarships. My application was based on the value of exploring the Eternal City first-hand for my dissertation on the Fascist regime's demolitions and excavations in the ancient city centre, and I would have struggled to fund the trip otherwise. It proved to be immensely useful in providing a physical dimension for my discussion – as well as very enjoyable!

As I imagine the case to be for any first-time traveller to Rome, visiting the Colosseum and the Fora was my top

priority. They did not disappoint, basking in the Italian sunshine and surrounded by a constant stream of tourists. For me, it was particularly illuminating to see this ancient 'theme park' from the Via dei Fori Imperiali. Formerly known as the Via dell'Impero, it was designed to connect the newly refurbished Colosseum with the Victor Emmanuel II Monument, with the imperial fora adorning either side. The road was opened in 1932 for the tenth anniversary of the Fascist regime's 'March on Rome' – which, in reality, was more of a march to Rome, with Mussolini himself arriving by train. It constituted a key triumphal route for the military, vividly demonstrating Fascism's claim to the inheritance of Rome's ancient glory. Prior to the construction of the road, this region had been densely populated for generations, with the Roman fora even gaining the name of *Campo Vecchio* ('Cow Field') as a result of the grazing of herds there.

*It was particularly illuminating to see this ancient 'theme park' from the Via dei Fori Imperiali, opened in 1932 for the tenth anniversary of the Fascist regime's 'March on Rome', a key triumphal route for the military, vividly demonstrating Fascism's claim to the inheritance of Rome's ancient glory.*

With the huge urban clearance operation commencing only a year before the road was due to open, the project saw centuries of Italian history and a whole way of life vanish in a matter of months. The road drove a diagonal line through the Fora, forcing a totally new perspective upon a previously familiar landscape. Other than the change of name and recent prohibition of private traffic, the Via dei Fori Imperiali of September 2015 looked practically the same as the Via dell'Impero of October 1932 – as if the ancient structures had always been visible and nothing had been lost.

Other key features of my visit included the Theatre of Marcellus, the Pantheon and the Mausoleum of Augustus. The Ara Pacis Museum was a particular highlight, as well as the four impressive museums constituting the Museo Nazionale Romano.

I had an amazing time in Rome, and it would not have been possible without the support of the travel scholarship.

So, if you are an undergraduate in a similar position, I would highly recommend applying. Further details are available at <http://www.ics.sas.ac.uk/awards/awards-prizes>, and this year's deadline is Friday 13 May.

Have a caption to go with this picture? Email it to [cd227@le.ac.uk](mailto:cd227@le.ac.uk)

## Caption Competition

The **winner** of our previous competition is distance learning student **Sanjiv Mann**, who will receive a SAAH goody bag for the caption "Snakes, why did it have to be snakes?".

Thanks to all who participated!

