



The School Bulletin

THE TRANS-SAHARA RESEARCH PROJECT

*By David Mattingly, Victoria Leitch
and Martin Sterry*

The Trans-Sahara Project is a major new project being undertaken in collaboration with the Libyan Department of Antiquities and funded through a highly prestigious European Research Council Advanced Researcher grant, awarded to *Professor David Mattingly*, and receives additional aid from the Leverhulme Trust, the Society for Libyan Studies and the GeoEye Foundation.



Building on previous research projects in the School (*The Fazzan Project*, *Desert Migrations Project* and *Peopling the Desert Project*), Trans-

Sahara has an ambitious and challenging set of research goals to investigate the nature and consequences of the interconnectivity of the Trans-Sahara zone, and the Garamantes civilisation in particular. Ultimately we aim to uncover new paradigms of an interconnected Trans-Saharan world in the pre-Islamic period that will change the academic landscape and create an enhanced African perspective.

The project, headed by David Mattingly supported by two postdoctoral fellows (Drs Victoria Leitch and Martin Sterry) will combine state-of-the-art archaeological fieldwork with cutting-edge laboratory analysis, satellite remote sensing and artefactual studies, backed up by innovative theoretical modelling and critical engagement with published archaeological material and historical sources.

The project team overall comprises interdisciplinary researchers with specialisations in pre-history and historic archaeology, history, anthropology and palaeo-anthropology, genetics, isotopic analysis and scientific dating techniques; we are also joined by researchers at the University of Cambridge, led by Dr Marta Lahr.

Other Bulletin highlights:

School and ULAS news	2, 3
The Distance Learning pages	4-5
Burrough Hill Fieldschool 2011	6-7
Photo caption competition time	9
Outreach; News from Malta	12-13
Centre for Historical Arch conf	14
Dear Deirdre	16



Four major conferences will be held to present key research ideas and debates and to develop an active dialogue with invited experts in the field. With the emphasis on open access, the core data will be available via searchable web catalogues made available through the University's Leicester Research Archive. As well as books and conference proceedings, annual interim reports will appear in specialised journals.

Four workgroups will explore the following themes:

• **Urbanisation and State Formation** within the different sub-regions of the Trans-Saharan zone to the Islamic era. Differences between Garamantian settlements and contemporary nucleated settlements to north and south will be investigated.

• **Trade:** testing and exploring the nature and scale of pre-Islamic trans-Saharan contact through detailed studies of the artefactual remains and questioning how far plants, animal and humans were traded.

• **Mobile Technologies** and ideas exchange, such as the adoption of irrigation technology, metallurgy or advanced pyrotechnology.

• **Human Mobility and Identity:** using scientific methods to look for the ethnic composition of Garamantian society, and using the material culture and burial rituals to debate expressions of evolving identity across the Saharan communities.



Images © Toby Savage

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

By Professor Colin
Haselgrove



Wednesday morning at 3am... The only way if I'm going to meet *Bulletin* editor Neil's deadline for School News! Actually I am being economical with the truth, but it feels that way after another incredibly hectic but highly successful year at the School. Indeed, this year saw several important new initiatives. The MA in Archaeology is successfully up and running and will we hope be even

more popular when the planned strand in human bioarchaeology is added next year. Our new BA in Ancient History & Classical Archaeology by Distance Learning will launch after Christmas and is recruiting encouragingly. October saw a record intake of research postgraduates and the number of PhDs awarded in 2011 was also a record. Thanks to all my colleagues who have worked hard to make these developments possible. We were delighted when the University accepted our suggestion that Michael Wood should be awarded an honorary doctorate and Michael duly graduated alongside our own students in July this year. What with *The Story of England*, Alice Robert's *Digging for Britain* (also BBC2), which featured our Burrough Hill field school this July, Lin Foxhall talking about luxury in ancient Greece on BBC4 and Gillian Hargreave's report for Radio 4's *Today* programme the day the students got their results (with a record number of first class degrees), there has hardly been a month when the School has not featured in the media.

In the course of 2011, the School said its good byes to three long serving members of staff, all of whom will be much missed. Audrey Horning left to take up the Chair of Archaeology at Queen's Belfast; Mark Pluciennik retired after eight highly successful years as Director of DL and Ian Reeds left to pursue other interests. Our thanks and best wishes to them all, as well as to Jago Cooper who has taken up a post at UCL. Since Mark left, he has turned his hand to the manufacture of salami (they are delicious!), even starting up his own business and now taking orders, whilst Audrey, along with Alasdair Brooks and Sarah Tarlow, was instrumental in securing the Society of Historical Archaeology 2013 Annual Meeting for Leicester; it is only the second time this prestigious conference has been held outside the USA.

We were fortunate to be allowed to appoint three new lecturers in the wake of these departures and are delighted to welcome Jo Appleby as lecturer in Human Bioarchaeology, Craig Cipolla as Lecturer in Historical Archaeology and Oliver Harris as Lecturer in Prehistory (see p.3 opposite). During the summer, Oliver and the colleagues with whom he is conducting a long-term fieldwork project on the Ardnamurchan peninsula in western Scotland excavated an intact Viking boat burial, one of only five in Britain. When finally announced in October, news of the find caused a media frenzy. We are delighted to welcome back Alistair Brooks as Teaching Fellow in Historical Archaeology and Martin Sterry as a Research Associate (RA) working with David Mattingly. Other new arrivals are Victoria Leitch, also working with David on his *Trans-Sahara project* and Zoe Dyndor (as RA), Stephanie Maksimovic (Administrator) and Floris Tomasini (RA from December) working with Sarah Tarlow on her new project, *The Power of the Criminal Corpse*.

David's grant from the European Research Council, the first awarded to the University, and Sarah's, which is from the Wellcome Trust, have helped make this a record year for research income to the School. Space does not permit me to list all other successful grant applications, but special mention can be made of Deirdre O'Sullivan and Ruth Young – along with all their student collaborators – who were awarded an AHRC Networks Grant for the *Leicester Faith Trail*. This innovative project had its origins in the Level 2 Professional Skills module and has won wide praise. See our revamped School Research web pages on current projects for more information!

Regarding smaller new arrivals, many congratulations to Constantina Katsari and her partner on the birth of twins Eliana and Petros, to Richard Thomas and Heidi on the birth of their third son, Henry, and to Stefan Krmnicek and his wife on the birth of their first child, Karoline. Congratulations also to Debbie Miles-Williams and Selena Thraves on their re-grading, and to our PhD postgraduate Anna Booth (depicted above right with Audrey Horning), who was one of the team who shared *Current Archaeology's* 2011 Golden Trowel award for their part in the excavation of the Frome Hoard.

And a final wider thanks to everyone else, staff and student alike, who has contributed to making this yet another highly successful year in the School.



DR OLIVER HARRIS—FRESH FROM HIS VIKING BOAT FIND—JOINS THE SCHOOL

Oliver Harris studied archaeology and prehistory at the University of Sheffield, followed by a Masters in the European Neolithic and a PhD at Cardiff University, where he focused on archaeological theory and the Neolithic of Britain. Since then he has continued to study both of these areas, although other things keep getting in the way. First was a postdoc in Cambridge where he researched how the human body has been understood through time, covering almost all times and places in Europe except the British Neolithic. He then moved to Newcastle on a Leverhulme Early Career fellowship which focused on the topic of community which did thankfully allow him back to study his favourite period.

Oliver co-directs the **Ardnamurchan Transitions Project** which examines the long-term occupation of Britain's most westerly peninsula and has seen him excavate sites from the Neolithic to the 19th century AD, with a Viking boat burial thrown in for good measure. (You might have heard about that...!) He has published articles in *World Archaeology*, *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* and *Archaeological Dialogues* and is currently completing a co-authored monograph on the research he conducted in Cambridge.

His main research remains Neolithic Britain but he is interested in most theoretical topics you care to name, and he is now at least passably knowledgeable about the Vikings as well...!



ETRUSCAN AND ROMAN POOR EXPERT EMMA-JAYNE GRAHAM

I studied archaeology at the University of Sheffield and since then I have spent time as a Fellow at the British School at Rome, digging Roman villas in Cambridgeshire, and as a lecturer at Cardiff University and the University of St. Andrews. I am currently a Teaching Fellow in Roman Archaeology and, amongst other things, responsible for writing a new Distance Learning module. My research interests focus on culture and identity in Roman Italy, primarily memory, mortuary practices and attitudes towards the corpse, but I also work on concepts of the ancient body and the embodied construction of identity more broadly. I have just started a new project concerning 'Swaddled infants and the terracotta votive tradition in ancient Italy (4th-1st century BC)' which has been supported by the British Academy Small Research Grant scheme and is allowing me to think about the living for a change (and to spend time in Italian museum archives). Away from archaeology I like (although am not very good at) climbing and playing tennis and am a little obsessed with penguins.



Image left: Immense powers of concentration at work as Oliver works out how to join the dots up on his site plan

Despite difficult times as the construction industry remains quiet ULAS 2011 has seen some very significant achievements during the year. As well as a successful season at Burrough Hill (see pp.6-7), fieldwork highlights include the multi-period site at Kirkby Mallory where Bronze Age, burials, Iron Age and Roman enclosures and Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings were located, pit alignments and enclosures at Northampton and Bronze age burials and Roman settlement at Castle Donington. The quarrying at Brooksby Quarry has continued and the course of the 500,000 year old Bytham river has been identified. Of the 160 palaeolithic implements recovered from the quarry a few have recently been located in-situ.

Regarding publications ten papers and four books were published. Lynden Cooper and Susan Ripper's *Hemington Bridges* volume on three 11th-13th century bridges across the Trent launched at Snibston Discovery Park in January. The excavation of two aggregated Iron Age settlements in the environs of Leicester by John Thomas was published in May and Neil Finn's report on the prehistoric remains from Eye Kettleby appeared in October. The most successful publication, however, has been *Visions of Ancient Leicester* by Richard Buckley, Mathew Morris and the artist Mike Codd. Based on Mike's paintings this traces the history of Leicester from the Iron Age to the post-medieval period from the results of the Highcross Quarter excavations. Remarkably since its launch in July it has sold more than 1100 copies and is already into a second print run. It was also the best selling paperback at Waterstone's Leicester branch in September! Looking ahead, Vicki Score's monograph on the Hallaton Iron age shrine where the hoard of over 5000 Iron Age and Roman republican coins was found is now in press and should appear in December or January.

ULAS staff have been very active in the field of outreach, including several contributions to the Festival of Archaeology fortnight in July. Other highlights include Richard Buckley's talks to schools in Paris and a conference paper at the University of Barcelona. A successful collaboration was undertaken by Vicki Score with the Hallaton community archaeology fieldwork group. This investigated some geophysical survey results by the group and located well preserved medieval remains likely to be of the 13th-century Saint Morril's chapel.

**ULAS
NEWS**

*By Patrick
Clay*

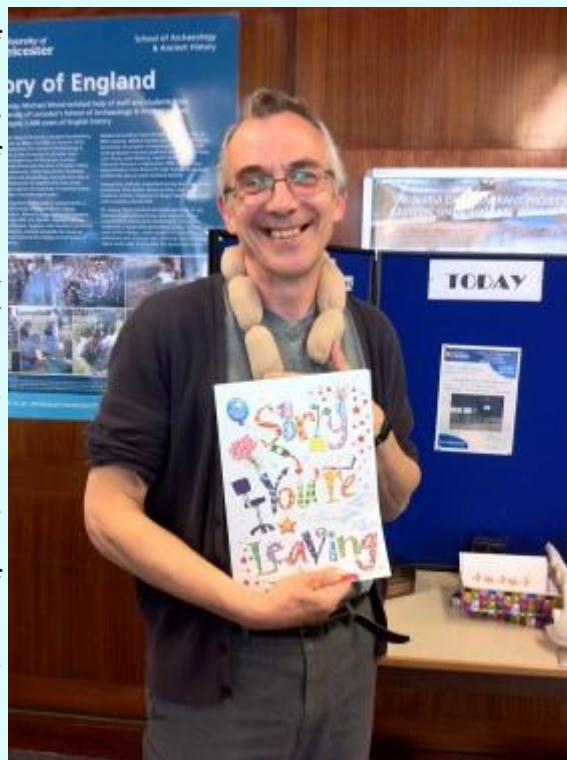




THE DISTANCE LEARNING NEWS PAGE

*A 2011 update from Dr Ruth Young
(Director of Distance Learning Strategy)*

This has been a year of changes in the School's Distance Learning section, and easily the biggest change of all was the retirement of Dr Mark Pluciennik in May. Mark had been the Director of Distance Learning in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History since 2003, when Dr Alan McWhirr, the previous (and first) Director of DL retired. Mark was passionately committed to DL, to making sure those DL students had the opportunity to study for high quality archaeology qualifications from the University of Leicester. With the help of Selina, Kathy, Lara and Dipti in the DL office, plus of course numerous academics working to produce and maintain materials, as well as teach and mark each module, Mark was indeed able to provide a series of very special DL courses. Under Mark's leadership the DL portfolio expanded to include new MAs in Historical Archaeology and the Archaeology of the Classical Mediterranean, and new undergraduate programmes of the Level 2 Diploma in Archaeology and the BA in Archaeology. These courses have helped make Leicester unique among archaeology providers by distance learning in the world, and we are all incredibly proud of what we do at Leicester. Mark also continued his long standing interest in archaeological theory, publishing widely and also writing the really interesting Level 2 Archaeological Theory module, and he co-directed the Torcicoda Project in Enna, Sicily, exploring rural landscapes in different periods. Thank you Mark, for all that you have done for DL at Leicester - we will all miss you. And the very best of luck with your new sausage-making venture.



2011 has also seen the approval of a whole new degree programme to be delivered via distance learning: a BA in Ancient History and Classical Archaeology and is being created under the control and vision of Dr Andy Merrills. This new BA will of course draw on some of the key research and teaching strengths of Leicester, namely our unique combination of archaeology and ancient history within the School, along with our concentration of classical archaeologists. Exciting new modules include Introduction to Language Skills, being written by Dr Gillian Ramsey, and Roman Archaeology, being written by the School's new teaching fellow, Dr Emma-Jayne Graham. We hope to have our first students enrolled on this degree in early 2012.

The DL office and School Administrator Sharon North have been taking part in an exciting 'systems thinking' review of processes and procedures in distance learning. The School of Archaeology and Ancient History has been selected as the first department in the university to explore the ways in which we currently administer all aspects of our DL programmes and put in place new systems, which we hope will improve what we do immensely for our students, our office staff, and also academic staff. The next few months will be challenging, particularly for Sharon, Selina, Lara, Kathy and Dipti, but with the able support of Dr Nick Ray and Julia Nikolaus who have been helping out the DL team, we hope to emerge in a few months with a much better, more efficient system.

Greetings from the Western Shore of the Atlantic! Recent research on North American prehistoric projectiles

John Thornton Hilleary, a current and enthusiastic distance learning archaeological student with the University of Leicester, was recently appointed site archaeologist for a trinity of county organizations including: the Morgan Cabin Citizens Committee, the Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission, and the Berkeley County Historical Society, all of which are located in Berkeley County, West Virginia, USA.

Alongside his studies, John has recently been assisting with the historical society where he has been engaged in the identification of an enigmatic and unverifiable plethora of eastern North American prehistoric projectile points – these going on display within the Society museum from late Spring, 2011. In total, lithic tools of 25 ancient Indian cultures from a variety of mid-Atlantic eco-zones and comprising a multiplicity of typologies have been identified consisting of West Virginia petrographic materials including chert, quartz, silicious slate and quartzite. Non indigenous lithic species encompass banded, porphyritic and mottled rhyolite from Pennsylvania suspected of having manuported into what is now West Virginia through the auspices of aboriginal warring and regional trading activities over the millennia.



For those keen on the technology and cultures, the projectile chronology researched touches on a bisected Upper Paleo-Indian/Lower Archaic time frame with the side-notched Big Sandy and Lerma points being represented at 8000-7500BC followed by the well executed side-side-notched and serrated Kirk point at 6000BC. Early, Mid and Late Woodland projectiles are sufficiently appointed from the Glengary, Tuscarora and Falling Waters regions with a conspicuous number of Levanna and Yadkin triangular points dominating the Society collection and dating from the start of the first millennium AD all the way up to European Contact.

Part of the exciting archaeological endeavor involves microscopic investigation of the almost physically and chemically indestructible quartz, and cryptocrystalline flint specimens to ascertain prehistoric human induced abrasion, scratches and blemishes that transpired during animal protein processing, wood working and probable attempts at tool recutting. The tool analyses, furthermore, dramatizes a specialized challenge for weathered rhyolitic projectiles in regard to centuries of surficial chemical decomposition from an initial freshly cut rhyolite projectile into a devitrified artifact, and mechanics connected with measuring the geologic change, and a correlation drawn between a geochemical analysis and the age of primeval ethnologies. All very inspiring and rewarding work!

John's former archaeological work has included excavations through the University of Maryland at a Paleo-Indian burial site in southern Maryland and in England at Middleton Stoney. More recent archaeological indulgences have occurred at his own historic farm in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, Cool Spring Farm, the site of an 18th-century cellar. After four excavation seasons over 35 industries have been revealed. The State of West Virginia has already given the site official recognition.

MEET A DISTANCE LEARNING PHD STUDENT: JESS McCULLOUGH

Jess McCullough has a background in history. He graduated cum laude from the College of St. Scholastica with a B.A. in History and a minor in Medieval & Renaissance Studies (2005). This led to a research assistantship and an M.A. at Marquette University in 2007. The University of Leicester's DL Ph.D. program (which he

began this October, coming over to meet his supervisors, other School staff and fellow PhD students in Induction Week) appealed to him for its flexibility and reputation, and his current doctoral research is on the Christianization of the Norse Greenland colonies. He lives on the shore of the largest lake in the world with his wife, Harmony, and daughter Cora. In the summer he operates a 25' trebuchet with friends for fun... That's operating it with them, not firing his friends off with the trebuchet!!





A busy and successful second season of excavation at Burrough Hill, near Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire took place in June and July 2011. Burrough Hill is the finest example of a large univallate (single banked) hillfort in Leicestershire and has protected status as a Scheduled Monument. The hillfort has received attention by antiquarians and archaeologists alike from at least the 16th century but despite several small-scale excavations in the past, the origins and development of the site are poorly understood.

In 2010 the School of Archaeology and Ancient History began a new research project focussed on the hillfort and surrounding landscape to try and address this gap in our knowledge. The project is designed as a five year combined research and training programme and is run jointly by staff members from the School and our in-house archaeological unit, ULAS. Excavation training is offered to c.90 undergraduate and Distance Learning students who are involved in a wide range of on-site recording techniques. The Burrough Hill project will not only help in understanding the site itself, but also has the scope to inform greatly on Iron Age settlement and populations in the Midlands and on how such sites were used in the Roman period and beyond. Work has also begun on putting the hillfort into the context of its environs, with the help of local volunteer fieldwalkers who are scouring the fields at the base of Burrough Hill on the lookout for new sites as part of the Leicestershire County Council Community Archaeology Scheme.

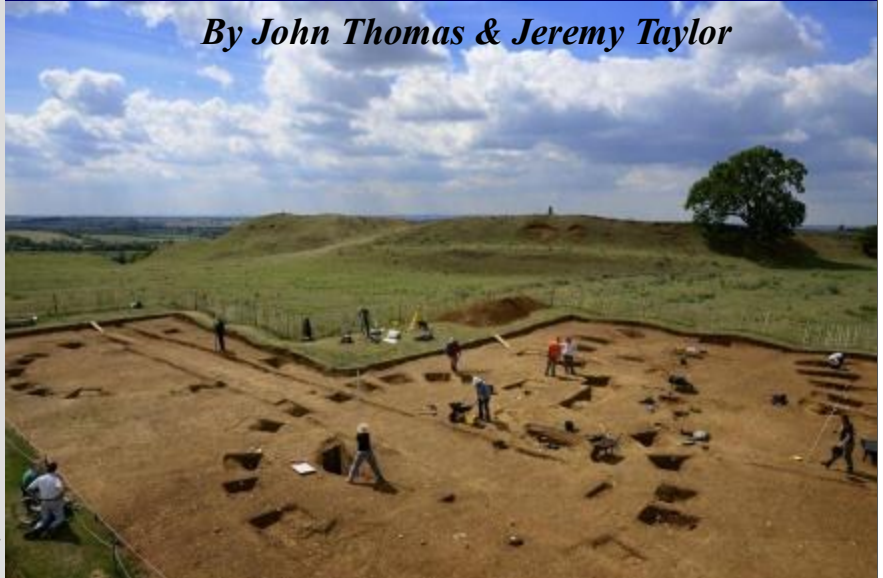
Preliminary work in 2010 involved a geophysical survey of the interior and immediate eastern environs. This revealed a mass of activity within the hillfort and surprisingly, evidence for settlement outside the defensive ramparts. Within the hillfort several hundred pits, small enclosures and roundhouses were revealed, while a small settlement of roundhouses and enclosures lay to the east, outside the main entrance. The first season in 2010 re-visited two of the earlier excavations (Trenches 1 & 2), learning much about the construction of the hillfort entrance and outer rampart.

This year's excavations were located to look at the extramural settlement lying on flat land to the east and also



BURROUGH HILL— THE 2011 SEASON

By John Thomas & Jeremy Taylor



Photos: Top: View of Trench 3 showing the three main structures under excavation: the two roundhouses in the foreground and on the left & the d-shaped enclosure lies in the background.

Left: Trench 4 showing the main rampart core, large burial pit (bottom centre), entrance road and wall (bottom left) and entrance chamber (centre)

Opposite: Close up of Trench 4 showing the upstanding stone walls of the entrance chamber with internal floor layers and central hearth



Trench 3 targeted the extramural settlement and two roundhouses, a d-shaped enclosure and several large pits were comprehensively excavated by the end of the season (see below). Both roundhouses were represented by eaves-drip gullies only, unusually with each having a north-east facing entrance. The buildings produced an array of Iron Age pottery, daub and animal bone and their locations within the eaves-drip gullies were carefully recorded so that analysis of deposition patterns can be undertaken. The d-shaped enclosure proved quite tricky to define but once everyone had their eye in a two-phased structure, also with a north-eastern entrance, was revealed. This enclosure has Iron Age origins but contained numerous Roman finds in the final ditch silts, suggesting it only fell into disuse at the end of the Iron Age. Further Roman evidence was recovered from a ditch that formed part of a large rectangular enclosure probably for livestock set north of the settlement. Pottery and a 3rd-century Roman coin from this feature have helped begin to characterise the nature of post-Iron Age activity in the land immediately outside the hillfort. Various pits were also excavated, one partially clay-lined and probably used for grain storage. Iron Age pottery and bone was recovered from several pits, while one contained the near complete upper half of a beehive quern, this made of millstone grit from the Pennines, supporting an image of wide reaching contacts in the Iron Age. Another pit had evidence for iron-working and a complete iron spear-head.



Trench 4 extended last year's trench in the hillfort entrance with the aim of learning more about the construction of the entrance passage and to investigate the remainder of the entrance chamber/guard room. Further evidence for the rampart construction was revealed and two clear phases of development could be seen. A midden to the rear of the rampart contained much Iron Age pottery, animal bone, two lower pieces from beehive querns and a late Iron Age brooch.



The eastern half of the entrance chamber/guard room proved to be quite spectacular in its preservation, with upstanding walls and multiple floor levels, as hinted at from last year's work. Once the backfill layers were removed various clay and silt floors and hearths were revealed, some with good assemblages of pottery and animal bone. At the main hearth, crushed pottery and bone were littered around the fire, like a living surface frozen in time.

The big surprise came from a large pit beneath the entrance road, which contained the crouched inhumation of a young adult male. He had been buried with some respect in a stone cist, probably topped with a cairn, and was remarkably well-preserved. Interestingly this burial pre-dated the rampart extension, while a partially revealed pit to the east pre-dated the earlier phase of the entrance rampart. Both should provide useful dating evidence for the development of the hillfort entrance.

Outreach work and public involvement were prominent features this year. A grant from the Ernest Cook Trust, who own Burrough Hill, enabled us to employ an Education Officer and we had a number of very successful school visits that we intend to build upon in future seasons. A resource pack was also produced to accompany their visits and provide activities for follow on lessons. We also had a day when the Young Archaeologists Club helped out, and a three day Summer School to enable a group of 15/16 year olds to participate in the excavation. Our open day attracted over 600 visitors, while the annual guided walk brought in another 100 people. Finally, we have helped to take the excitement of Burrough Hill to a much wider audience by being involved with two new archaeology programmes for the BBC; the first, *Digging for Britain*, was broadcast in September; the second, a new Michael Wood programme following on from his Kibworth series, will air next Spring.

For more information and images visit:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/burrough-hill-iron-age-hillfort>



MASTERING ANCIENT GREECE

This last Easter, students on the *MA in the Classical Mediterranean* went on a week long study tour to Athens. We had a very busy week visiting museums, sites and monuments across the city, as well as taking two day trips to visit the sites of Eleusis, Thorikos and Sounion. The trip allowed all of us, both students (many of these studying by Distance Learning) and staff (i.e. myself and Melissa Vettters of the *Tracing Networks* project), to meet each other in person and to put some faces to names. It was also a brilliant opportunity for students to immerse themselves fully in the classical world, waking up to views of the Parthenon in the morning and spending each day surrounded by the physical remains of the ancient world.



Some of the MA students playing ancient hide and seek at the sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Eleusis....!

From prehistoric tombs to late antique fortification walls, we explored the full chronological range of the classical past, thinking about the changes and continuities in Athenian life over many centuries. We visited cemeteries such as the Kerameikos, cult centres such as the Temple of Poseidon at Eleusis, and economic hubs such as the Roman and Athenian agoras. The archaeological remains themselves were of course a crucial focus of the visit, but we were also interested in the way the classical past was presented to the visitor. In

particular the new Acropolis Museum, with its innovative architecture and purpose built galleries, made us re-think the ways we look at classical sculpture and how we interpret its social meaning.

But perhaps the most unforgettable experience of the trip was our long hike up to the summit of Thorikos' acropolis. We were rewarded, not only by being able to explore some Bronze Age tholos tombs, but also with a breathtaking view over the ancient theatre and city of Thorikos, out across the Aegean Sea. After that, we rounded off the whole trip with a



The learned MA study group gather to soak up sun, culture and antiquity at the stunning Temple of Poseidon at Sounion

hearty lunch together at a traditional taverna on the beach - the perfect end to an exhausting but very rewarding week!

Naoise Mac Sweeney



NEW SCHOOL STAFF BOOKS AND ULAS MONOGRAPHS

A number of books have been published this year by the staff of the School, covering the Greek and Roman worlds, cross-disciplinary themes and Historical Archaeology. For the east Mediterranean we can flag: Graham Shipley's study of the text, translation, and historical commentary of the Greek geographer, Pseudo Skylax, *Pseudo-Skylax's Periplus: The Circumnavigation of the Inhabited World* (Phoenix Press/Exeter University Press); and Naoise MacSweeney's *Community Identity and Archaeology: Dynamic Communities at Aphrodisias and Beycesultan* (University of Michigan Press).

Several further books cover different aspects of the Roman world, demonstrating the School's strengths in this area. David Mattingly's *Imperialism, Power and Identity: Experiencing the Roman Empire* (Princeton University Press) uses insights from postcolonial studies of modern empires to challenge views of the civilising and assimilative nature of the Roman Empire. Simon James' *Rome and the Sword* (Thames & Hudson) provides new perspectives on Roman history by focusing on the soldiers and their actions. Constantina Katsari's *The Roman Monetary System* (Cambridge University Press), is a comprehensive study of the workings of the system in the Eastern provinces from the Augustan period to the third century AD, when the Roman Empire suffered a monetary and economic crisis. And Marijke van der Veen's, *Consumption, Trade and Innovation: Exploring the Botanical Remains from the Roman and Islamic Ports at Quseir al-Qadim, Egypt* (Africa Magna Verlag Frankfurt), studies the food remains discovered at this port and offers important information about the ancient spice trade. Also from North Africa and by David Mattingly, with D. Stone, and N. Ben Lazreg, is *Leptiminus (Lamta): A Roman port city in Tunisia, Report no. 3, The Urban Survey* (JRA Supplement, Portsmouth RI), offering extensive analysis of the site's surface archaeologies. Following chronologically from these books are Neil Christie's *The Fall of the late Roman West*, Bloomsbury and Andy Merrill's and Richard Miles' *The Vandals* (Wiley-Blackwell), which is part of the series 'The Peoples of Europe'; both volumes draw on a full range of archaeological and historical evidence.

Lin Foxhall's *Studying Gender in Classical Antiquity, Key Themes in Ancient History* (CUP, in press) provides an important resource for this growing field of study. And last but certainly not least is Sarah Tarlow's *The Burden of the Flesh: ritual, belief and the dead body in early modern Britain and Ireland* (also CUP), which is the first to incorporate archaeological evidence of early modern death and burial, and address new questions about the materiality of death.

There have been some new and exciting ULAS monographs in this last year and others are imminent: first we can note Monograph 19, John Thomas' *Two Iron Age 'Aggregated' Settlements in the Environs of Leicester. Excavations at Beaumont Leys and Humberstone*, which is an important addition to the literature on the East Midlands Iron Age, describing two of the largest Iron Age settlements yet excavated in Leicestershire and providing new evidence on settlement origins, development and changes over time, with key sections on social structure and lifestyle, economies, material culture and trade networks. Volume 20 is *Bronze Age Ceremonial Enclosures and Cremation Cemetery at Eye Kettleby, Leicestershire: The development of a prehistoric landscape* by Neil Finn, who describes results of extensive excavation of a prehistoric landscape with evidence of activity from at least the Mesolithic through to a monument complex and later cemetery in the Bronze Age. The site provides an unparalleled insight into the development of Bronze Age funerary practices in the Midlands.

Finally, imminent is Vicki Score's *Hoard, Hounds and Helmets: A Conquest-Period Ritual Site at Hallaton, Leicestershire* detailing and interpreting a ritual site with its buried hoards of coins, Roman helmets (see image of cheek-piece with cavalryman) and other valuables, guarded by ritually sacrificed dogs—all forming one of the most crucial discoveries in the east Midlands and guiding us on transitions contacts and display from the late Iron Age to the early Roman period.

And remember—all the monographs can be ordered from the School, ULAS and from the University bookshop!



PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION!

Well, these new undergraduates seem to be becoming more varied in their origins, but at least they seem to know their way around a bookshelf...

Ideas for suited captions on an e-card to the editor, please! As normal, although no one seems to pay notice to this, we request that entrants attach a £10 note for major administrative purposes... paper clips are expensive, you know!

The Quiet before the Storm: Libyan Fieldwork (January-Feb. 2011)

By Martin Sterry, David Mattingly and Victoria Leitch

With fieldwork to do in three different oases last winter we knew this was going to be our most complicated and ambitious season yet. January in the Fazzan went by in a blur. The Burials and Identities team dug tombs in both the Kings' and Queens' cemeteries, close to the Garamanian capital of Jarma. Midway through, a small subgroup of the team conducted a brief exploratory survey in the Murzuq area (c.200 km south-east from Jarma). The



purpose was to visit on the ground a selection of the spectacular sites we had been recording from satellite images. Guided by GPS and Google Earth, in just 5 days we surveyed a staggering 80 separate settlements, field systems and cemeteries, with only occasional stops for tea!

What we found exceeded all expectations. The bulk of the fortified villages we had mapped turned out to have been built by the Garamantes and were extraordinarily well preserved. The results challenge prevailing views of this little-known ancient civilization, active from 1000 BC to AD 1100-1500. Our initial publication has caused a media storm. This startling new evidence could help re-write the history of the country, since Ghaddafi had pretty much ignored the Garamantes and had excluded them from the educational curriculum: "It is like someone coming to Eng-

land and suddenly discovering all the Norman castles," according to Professor David Mattingly. Using satellite images, air-photographs and ground truthing, the archaeological team has recorded more than 100 fortified villages with castle-like structures and several towns, most dating between AD 1-500. Some of the mud-brick walls are still standing an impressive four metres high, but additionally there are traces of dwellings, cairn cemeteries, associated field



systems and sophisticated irrigation systems, testament to the historical significance of the Garamantes state.

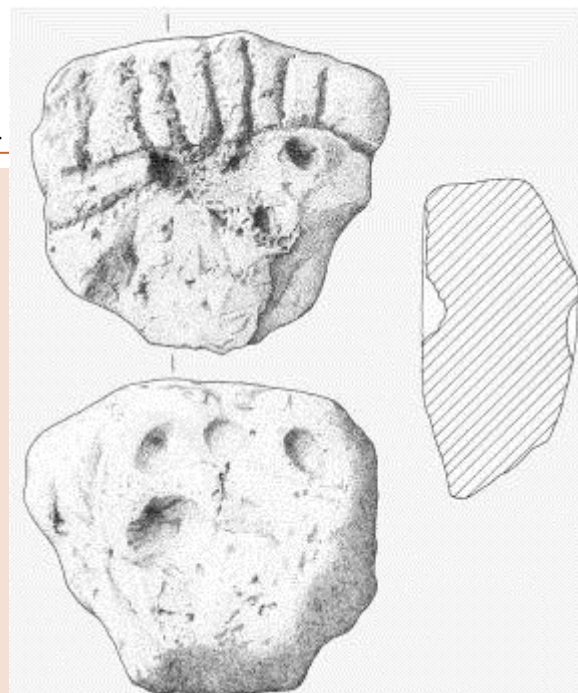
At the end of January, we travelled 1400km across the Sahara to the UNESCO world heritage site of Ghadames to start a major survey project, sponsored by BP, of the oasis and its surrounding sites. With a highly skilled team of Libyan archaeologists and expats we started at a run, surveying half the oasis gardens in three weeks. Then, with little warning, the well-documented revolution began and it became clear that as foreigners we were potentially at danger and we were certainly putting our Libyan colleagues and friends at risk. With a heavy heart we packed our equipment into storage and, promising to return, set out on another long journey to Tunisia and home. Throughout the fieldwork our project team were brilliant and distinguished themselves in the face of both the challenging archaeology and turbulent events that followed. We hope that we can all get back to Libya and its unique archaeology very soon.

Images top left: A view of the Ghadames gardens from the old town; Top right: PhD students Matt Hobson and Tyr Fothergill plus Dept of Antiquities staff member with project clipboards; Above: PhD student Julia Nikolaus with two Libyan DoA staff; Left: A survey team among the abandoned gardens of the oasis



AN UPDATE ON EXCAVATIONS AND NEW FINDS AT STREET HOUSE, YORKSHIRE 2009-11

**By Stephen Sherlock—recent PhD graduate
(thesis: *Iron Age settlement in NE England*;
PhD awarded July 2011!)**



Between 2005 and 2007 a seventh century AD Anglo-Saxon cemetery was excavated at Street House on the Yorkshire coast, a summary report of which appeared in an earlier issue of the *Bulletin*. Excavations subsequent to this have revealed fascinating evidence for the cemetery as having been sited within an earlier, prehistoric landscape. Whilst an Iron Age settlement was known from aerial photography, a timber circle has been excavated in 2010-11, which is similar to a site excavated nearby in 1985.

Amongst the many other features were parts of a stone burial cairn or barrow that incorporated rock art (see figure above), four cupmarked stones, and two saddle querns, beneath which were recovered several fragments of cremated bone. The rock art is considered to date between the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age and whilst many pieces of rock art in cairns have simple cup and ring marks, the example illustrated is more intriguing as it appears to have been in contact with heat on one face and is decorated on both sides. Rock art has been found in certain locations on the North York Moors, particularly the coastal fringe with several barrows around Street House having decorated boulders, but the Street House example is unique.

One posthole structure is thought to be Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age in date. Another group of buildings were of interest, which were smaller and had a different type of construction to other round-houses on site. Stratigraphically, the huts could be seen to cut through the infilled Iron Age enclosure ditch (see image below); one hut is radiocarbon dated to 120 BC – AD 50 (SUERC 32352). The excavations have demonstrated there are three phases of houses type each of which are of a different size and constructed in a different manner.

The excavations were overseen by Steve Sherlock, and featured volunteers from Teesside Archaeological Society, local residents and University students. Further work is proposed in 2012 to examine other areas of a site that spans over 4,000 years of human activity in an area extending beyond six hectares!



Outreach News (October 2010 - July 2011)

by the School's Outreach and Careers Officer, **Debbie Miles-Williams**

An excellent year for the Outreach Programme! With help from our fantastic student volunteers, we have worked with 10 local city & county schools, throughout the year with pupils ranging from 5 years - 16 years old. Most visits were to explain the different techniques that archaeologists use to look at excavated evidence, bones, pottery, plant remains and artefacts/chronology. But there were some exceptions. One school visit involved helping to supervise pupils with their own school excavation and a session on making coil pots. Two further visits by 2nd year undergraduate students, to trial the lesson plans that they had designed and created as part of their group projects for the Professional Skills module. The lesson plans formed the basis to help create an education pack for the Burrough Iron Age Hillfort Project, which is now being passed on to local schools to inspire young people to take an interest in their local heritage. Our youngest age group (year 1, 5-6 year olds) followed three weekly sessions using archaeology for their Explorers topic. The Treasure Trail in the final session was greeted with much enthusiasm when the pupils excavated small Egyptian mummies and a Roman helmet!

On campus a successful Masterclass Taster for A Level students took place last April, with attendees coming from local colleges and further away (Sheffield, Luton, Telford). Just under half of the attendees expressed an interest in choosing Leicester for their Archaeology/ Ancient History degrees. Three school visits (primary and secondary), were made to the department in the spring and summer terms, to participate in hands-on sessions in the Bone/Ceramic labs on bones, pottery, recording, artefacts/chronology and plant remains.

This year we were also able to expand the Outreach programme to include more contact with local community archaeology groups, by hosting events for the Leicestershire Archaeological Fieldworkers in November and in March (IFA Training Day, and an Archaeological Illustration Day School), as well as sessions organised by staff on campus and off campus—a visit to the Bronze Age site of Flag Fen, with a guided tour for members by Professor Francis Pryor. And a session on the Egyptians was held at New Walk museum, for the Leicester Branch of the Young Archaeologists Club (membership is rising!).

Two fantastic public lectures were delivered by, Dr. Kevin Leahy "Staffordshire Hoard", last November. And Michael Wood's "Story of England", in early December; Michael also kindly took time out to talk to the Archaeology Society and other students during his visit.

June/July saw local schools visiting the Burrough Hill Project, for guided tours of the site and to see the finds. A very successful open day was held on June 26th, attracting over 600 visitors for the guided site tours and to speak to specialists about the finds, pottery, animal bones discovered on the project. (as well as to meet two Iron Age re-enactors!)

In early July we held our first Archaeology Summer School. Funding from 'Aim Higher' in the East Midlands enabled sixteen year 10 & 11 pupils from backgrounds under-represented in higher education to benefit from a residential experience. Various sessions were held on day 1

in the department (introductory talk to archaeology, Ethics & Archaeology, animal bones, seeds, identification bags, pottery, chronology quiz). Over the next three days at Burrough Hill, participants were shown how to survey, finds processing and took part in excavation.

On their first day on site, these budding archaeologists were lucky enough to be filmed and interviewed by historian and TV presenter Michael Wood, as part of his research for his next series the *Story of Britain*, to be screened on BBC1 in spring, 2012. BBC East Midlands news featured interviews with some of the young participants. The final day saw students work in groups to create short presentations of their experience, which they gave in the Attenborough Film Theatre. A successful week for all, becoming archaeologists as well as media stars!

Finally, nine year 10 work placements spent time with ULAS staff in the labs or drawing finds in the Drawing Office during the year.

All these events, together with all the wonderful talks from SAAH & ULAS staff at conferences, society meetings, etc gave us a grand total of contact with over 4,974 members of the general public. Much of this contact would not be possible without the fantastic support our student volunteers give—and so, many thanks to you all!



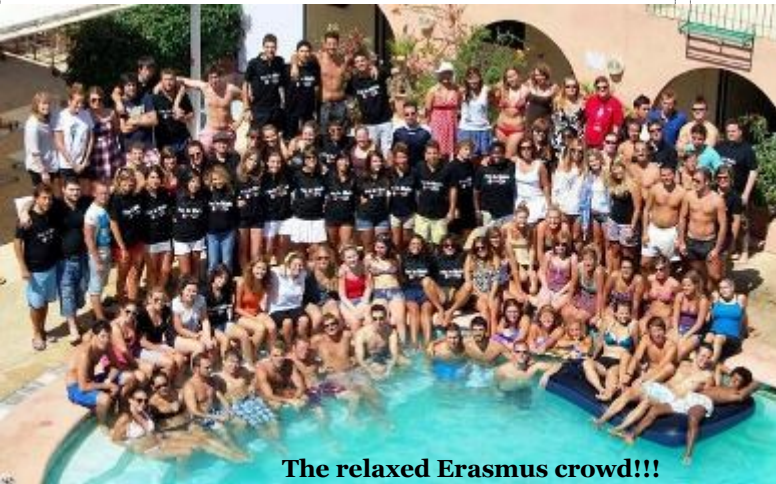
MY YEAR IN THE MED: A MALTESE ERASMUS YEAR — Ben Sorrill (BA Arch EU 4)

With a bit of trepidation I left behind the rain and arctic temperatures of the British summertime to spend a year at the University of Malta arriving in the middle of the night to temperatures still fifteen degrees above those I left behind. After much waiting for my lift to the Halls I eventually took a taxi to my home for the next nine months and the dawning realisation that to many Maltese the Spanish idea of *mañana* is an intolerably hasty way to live...

Bright and early the next day was the three hour induction session where a lot of information was given to us (usually finishing with: "In Malta this is illegal!") and many forms were completed – the true legacy of British colonialism. In a campus designed in the '60's eyesore' style the Archaeology Department was

lish so language was no barrier—fortunately for me!

The only fly-in-the-ointment was the University Residence: it was a wonderful place to live in (although quite expensive) and had a great pool, and was entirely filled with a great collection of international students (the Maltese live at home); however, the management of the place were rapacious and really didn't like students... At various points of the year there were some very polite rebellions over their habit of changing the T&Cs without notice and some very arbitrary attempts at punishing perceived 'misdemeanours'. You were considered lucky if you escaped with your deposit intact! Otherwise Malta is significantly cheaper than the UK when it comes to cost of living.



The relaxed Erasmus crowd!!!

sited in a pretty little farmhouse away from the bustle with its own little courtyard containing citrus trees and, much like the teaching, was at its base old-fashioned with modern elements constructed on its top. It is a very friendly School though and I soon felt welcomed by both staff and students. The teaching style was eclectic, ranging from the very 'Culture/History' approach of the Head to the cutting-edge Dr Nick Vella, picture right (whose terrifying introductory lecture on 'The Theory of Archaeology' with its open threats of expulsion from the module left us quaking in fear but who turned out to be extremely friendly, approachable and a superb lecturer). The structure of the course is very flexible allowing you to choose from a huge range of modules. For myself I stuck with archaeology taking modules in Maltese Prehistory, Roman and medieval archaeology along with others such as Prehistory of Sicily and Sardinia, Phoenician, early Israel and Palestine and Syrian archaeology. All the lessons were taught in Eng-

Why Malta? Sun, sea and amazing archaeology... The Maltese are very proud of their spectacular prehistory and temples considered until recently the oldest freestanding stone structures (don't mention Gobekli Tepe) through to the Knights-Templar fortifications. There are not many places where you can see so many different periods so close together. I even got to dig part of the way down a Phoenician Shaft Tomb but unfortunately didn't get as far as the burial chamber (other shafts on the site were nine meters deep!). For those students who perhaps like their nightlife there are the pleasures of the Paceville clubs and if you are on the island for Mardi Gras the *Nadur Carnivale* on Gozo is not to be missed! Oh, yes, and be sure if you do go to Malta to try the *Pastizzi*... very cheap and but very delicious!!



THE 2011 POST-GRADUATE CONFERENCE IN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Report by Sarah Newstead

On October 8th, 2011 the School's **Centre for Historical Archaeology** (CHA) hosted the Postgraduate Conference in Historical Archaeology.

Now an annual event, the conference provides a lively and informal forum for the presentation and discussion of current postgraduate research in the archaeology of the last 500 years, highlighting the strength and diversity of the discipline.

This year saw participants from all over the UK plus Ireland and one from the US who presented on a wide range of topics. The event was held in the lovely Henry Wellcome building and was very well-attended. We successfully transitioned this year to an online registration system and our experience with this new system should prove useful for future CHA conferences and events.

A major strength of smaller conferences is that they can allow for a greater depth of discussion and participation by both the presenters and audience. This depth of discussion is particularly useful for postgraduate students seeking feedback on their research. This year Dr. Sarah Tarlow and Dr. Chris King chaired the morning and afternoon sessions respectively. They did an excellent job facilitating quality discussion following each presentation (and keeping everyone on time). This year's conference lived up to its reputation and we had many comments from presenters thanking us for hosting an event offering so many useful perspectives and guidance on their postgraduate work.

Our presenters' research was varied and covered topics ranging from Irish whiskey distillation to 19th-century public welfare institutions. There has been a great deal of innovative and important research being undertaken by postgraduates of Historical Archaeology in the UK and this confer-

ence highlighted some of the best examples of this research. The project presented by Lindsay Keniston Udall (University of Bristol), which is striving to save Bristol's Arnos Vale cemetery (see image below), was a recent recipient of an Angel Award from English Heritage. Rachael Kiddey (University of York) closed the conference with a collaborative presentation with her project colleagues: she is researching archaeology as an approach to contemporary homelessness and the colleagues that attended with her had all been recently homeless. Jane Hallam, who has been work-



ing with Rachael in Bristol, considered the role of memory in heritage creation and wrote about her conference experience on the project's blog, Homelessheritage—well worth a visit! See <http://homelessheritage.wordpress.com/>. These projects highlight how innovative research approaches in Historical Archaeology can have relevance for both academic and non-academic communities – something which is important in our current era of tightening budgets and heritage funding cuts.

We were pleased with the presentations, quality of discussion and attendance for this year's event. The CHA Postgraduate Conference in Historical Archaeology has proven itself a valuable yearly venue for the presentation of student research and we hope this continues in the years to come.



CESENATICO 2011—REPORT ON THE SEASON FOUR EXCAVATIONS

By director Dr Denis Sami



This last September saw the fourth campaign of excavations in Cesenatico (25 km south of Ravenna on the north-east coast of Italy), exploring in further detail an early to late imperial Roman site. Whereas in 2010 three trenches were opened, this year attention was focused in the exploration of only two areas: T20 supervised by PhD student Mireya



Gonzalez and T21 overseen by Dr Neil Christie. Unexpectedly, in Mireya's trench - where in 2010, the remains of a hypocaust were uncovered - we discovered, still in good condition an apsidal wall (*picture left*, with Denis planning). This wall might have belonged to an important part of a building – baths, dining hall? - since its construction was of very good technique and was plastered on both the internal and external facade (traces of red paint were in fact also found in the external plaster). Within the apsidal area we documented three different floor levels, but none of them, sadly, despite their good quality, featured a mosaic. The interpretation of this building remains uncertain; it was erected before the hypocaust and it seems it was not connected with this later construction.

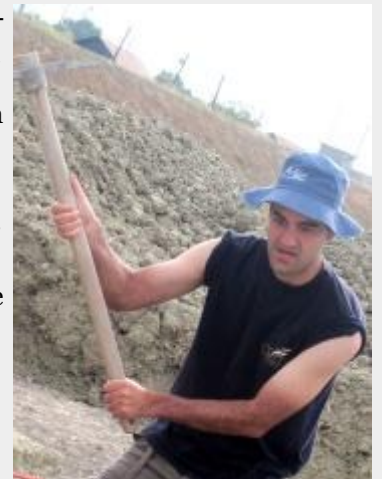
If Mireya and her team were working hard in digging the apsidal wall and exploring the robbed trenches, Neil and his squad of students (*picture below*) swept clean the bricks and cobble of the 9 meter wide late antique road in his trench near the small lake. This road informs us about the presence of an important coastal connection between Ravenna and Rimini most probably built during the late Roman Empire (perhaps indeed when Ravenna became the imperial capital in 402?) The 2011 investigations found a large ditch next to the road's west flank, which most probably related to the water drainage system of the site. There were also the remains of a structure facing the road on the



east flank - was it a *taberna* or a storage house or a residential space?

Overall, from a preliminary survey of the finds collected, it seems that there was glass manufacture on site, as well as lead production. As ever a rich assemblage of cooking pottery, fine wares and amphorae was collected. And this year we also recovered 55 coins spanning the 1st century BC to the late 5th century AD (including the coin of Hadrian depicted *top right*), plus a couple of WWII German pieces.

The 2011 Leicester team was composed of: PhD students Mireya Gonzalez Rodriguez, Sergio Gonzalez Sanchez, former ULAS supervisor Jon Coward, and students Alexander Smith, Abby Cooper, Amy Rutland and Beth Elliott, plus some local volunteers who resisted the very hot sun (although the picture of Sergio, *right*, shows some heat-induced madness), the thirsty local mosquitoes and a horde of 162 kids from the local school (these out in regular teams for the now well-established and highly successful Archeocamp). All this for the glory of archaeology, a first-class sun-tan and a glass (or two, or so...) of rather good Italian vino (not to mention gelato testing...!)



A cartoon illustration of a broken classical column. The column is yellow with vertical lines and a fluted capital. It is shown in two pieces: the main shaft and a separate section of the capital. The background is a light blue and pink gradient with white dashed lines suggesting motion or impact.

thing needing a bit less precision. Eat an apple. Start again. *Rrrah RrrahRrrah RrrahRrrahRrrah*. When will this end? Check out Estates information; apparently it actually ended two weeks ago; how very postmodern. *Bronng! Bronng! Bronng! Bronng! Phssshssh!* Think about sending some shirty emails, but rise above this; you have dealt with unavoidable bad karma before, have you not? Still, I'll bet that by the end of the working day you are no longer the tranquil, rational being entrusted by the prestigious GreenpeaceBrownrice Foundation with important research. An hour or two of yoga perhaps?

Let me know how you get on.....

XXX Deirdre

Dear Deirdre,

Perrie Jane (*undergraduate, BA Archaeology and Ancient History 2*)

Remember Swine Flu? Retrospectively, I would opine that this was mostly about the previous government being seen to 'do' something about a perceived threat over which they had actually very little control. Replace 'Swine Flu' with 'unemployment' and you get my drift. The 'Employability' surge creates jobs and promotions for careers officers and the like, but is no solution to the recession. Maintaining a common sense approach, which includes aiming for academic success, seems the most rational approach to me.

XXX Deirdre



And a final reminder: the School hosts a regular Wednesday pm Research Seminar during term time, with speakers (staff and PhD crew, ULAS members) from the department or affiliated departments at Leicester, plus outside speakers, whether academics, commercial field directors, museum staff, etc. Ranging from themes in ancient history through to modern archaeological debates or new field evidence, these are stimulating and relaxed gatherings. All students of all years are invited as well as staff. Organised by the keen PhD students team of Anna Booth and Marta Fanello, the gatherings begin in the School foyer at 4.30 with drinks and, more importantly, themed cakes—look at the nice house on the left; even the chimney was scrummy to eat! —before the serious talking begins at 5pm in the Charles Wilson building (Floor 2, Belvoir Park Lounge).